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Salk.  
1882

*Handwritten signature or text, possibly "Salk Institute"*













*Engraved from an original picture by J. H. Wardle.*

*(Colonel Wardle.)*

*Published by The Kelly, Latimer-street, June 24-1864*



**MEMOIRS**  
OF THE  
**LIFE**  
OF  
**COLONEL WARDLE;**

INCLUDING  
THOUGHTS ON THE STATE OF THE  
NATION,  
AND THE  
*FINAL ISSUE OF THE PRESENT CRITICAL JUNCTURE;*

WITH  
THE PUBLIC SPIRIT OF 1809,

As displayed in the

**Patriotic Proceedings**

THROUGHOUT THE BRITISH EMPIRE;

AND ENUMERATING THOSE GENTLEMEN WHO WERE MOST CON-  
SPICUOUS IN VOTING HIM THANKS, &c. EXCITED  
BY HIS INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF  
THE LATE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

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BY W. HAMILTON REID.



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“The Duty which I owe to my Country is paramount to every  
other Consideration.”

*Mr. Wardle.*

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LONDON:

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special pleading. He said, that *truth* to a lawyer had the same effect as a *red rag* upon a viper; it always extracted the venom out of him. He compared some of the Ministerial advocates, with respect to the evidence of Mrs. Clarke, to an ass upon a common going round and round a thistle, and passing it at last. As to the Ministers' assertion that the times were free from corruption, the Hon. Baronet justly observed it was greater now than it had ever been before, though its operations were different. She did not stalk forth openly giving bank-notes to members of Parliament, but the places and pensions she had to bestow were far more efficacious.

Sir Samuel Romilly entered into a just discrimination of the nature of evidence, and solemnly declared that he could not, on the fairest and most impartial view of the transaction, and notwithstanding what might befall him for the freedom of his vote, do otherwise, in conscience, than decide against the Duke.

Mr. Wilberforce could not acquit the Duke of a suspicion that corrupt practices were in existence, and thought that some reparation ought to be made to public morals, and that the command of the army could no longer, with prudence, be confided to the Duke of York. The House, said, could not pass over the transactions brought to the bar, without an irreparable injury

and another for the *governed*, had it not been observed, "that they die like other men." But, notwithstanding, in the exposure of a system thus outraging all common feelings, the reader will find the honest indignation of Englishmen expressed with their usual plain good sense, divested of party-spirit, and governed by that moderation to which faction is always a stranger.

To the credit of every person concerned, neither the object nor the conduct of any of these meetings bear the least resemblance with those Democratic Societies which unhappily agitated this country during the worst periods of the French Revolution. They entertained some of the most extravagant theories with respect to the religion of the country, as well as the form of Government. The present meetings require no change in either. They ask no more than a faithful execution of the laws and the Constitution already established.

Founded upon this liberal basis, the friends of Reform have a claim upon the approbation of all ranks, the nobles, the

commoners, and the clergy: the speeches of some of the latter, reported in pages 152 and 188, do them great credit, as the true friends of liberty and wholesome subordination.

These Reverend Gentlemen certainly oppose Ministers upon a *new ground*; viz. as very dangerous enemies to *Religion*. The sentiments interspersed throughout this volume have the very same foundation.

Such open violations of the moral and civil duties as we have lately witnessed, may lead numbers of thinking and well-disposed people to oppose the measures of ministers upon the score of religion and morality, who, upon grounds merely *political*, would otherwise have been totally indifferent.

Some persons may have gone back; and we have now to apologize for using the name of Mr. Curwen in page 3; as that gentleman has since declared, that he does not approve of what are termed "*Tavern Meetings*."

Firmness and moderation have all along enabled the friends of Reform to answer

for their political creed by their personal conduct and the most unfeigned attachment to their Sovereign. No sinister allusions to the mock majesty of the people, no scurrility in the form of toasts or sentiments, no empty declamations, have disgraced their proceedings, though a wider field for declamation has never been opened.

No doubt the friends of Reform will leave the *new dining system* to those, who have the facilities for multiplying the number of *Cabinet dinners* beyond any former examples. Still, the affectation of extraordinary hilarity, under circumstances really alarming, is not new. Nero, we are told, played on the fiddle after he had set *ancient Rome* on fire! And the application of this event to the conduct of the ministers of the *modern Augusta*, may not be quite foreign.

Some of the following observations on the State of Great Britain, &c. may appear novel; but the judicious readers, to whom they are particularly addressed, will peruse them with candour, and draw their own conclusions.

**MEMOIRS**  
**OF THE**  
**LIFE**  
**OF**  
**COLONEL WARDLE.**

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**AS** it is beyond all doubt that Col. Wardle has been most happily instrumental in creating a new era in British politics, it would be indeed much regretted should the records of so great a change be suffered to sink into oblivion; or even left to the future historian to glance at, or, like a judge, to sum up the glorious evidence of such an important event in a short cursory manner, or in general terms.

Instead of such an abstract of proceedings so highly creditable to the nation; instead of a dry and compendious detail of so many heart-cheering evidences of public spirit, public virtue, and the promising prospect of a happy reform; it will no doubt be found more congenial to true British

feelings, to contemplate, in one point of view, the many and still accumulating proofs of that moral regeneration, and those united efforts of honest and disinterested men, which alone are sufficient, if it be possible, to save the country, and restore the best constitution in the world to its pristine vigour. In fact, at a time when reform in the administration of public affairs has become indispensably necessary ; when taxation has approached its *ne plus ultra* ; and when abuses have become so rank as to taint the morals of all descriptions, not even the clergy excepted ; the public have a right and an interest in being acquainted with the characters of the truly great men of the age, who have undertaken the Herculean task of cleansing this Augean stable, and of resisting that torrent of corruption, which has hitherto intimidated the honest and well-meaning by the mad infuriated cry of *Jacobins*, *Conspiracies*, *No Popery*, &c. ! Many pictures of statesmen have been lately drawn ; but the gratification of a party-spirit, or the meaner view of obtaining court favour, have spoiled their execution. These objects have now lost their dangerous charms ; but to sweep away and punish corruption, and, at the same time, to prevent the rude hand of popular innovation from injuring the noblest supporters of British liberty, these are the honourable duties which the present times re-



quire; and which, very fortunately for this country, no inconsiderable number of real patriots seem now disposed to fulfil. To stem the torrent of abuses, extravagant profusion, and the wanton dissipation of the public blood and treasure, we now see some of the richest commoners standing forward. The Cokes of Norfolk, and the Curwens of Cumberland, are sufficient, with the band of upright members connected with them, to awe the hardest and most abandoned tools of ministerial corruption. Indeed every thinking man in the country has begun to reflect on the propriety and necessity of a radical reform, and to distrust all the old parties of Whigs or Tories, *Ins* or *Outs*. And in no one instance has the conduct of Col. Wardle, whose history we are going to enter upon, given greater satisfaction than in his declining to become a member of the *Whig Club*, to which he had been proposed by a friend. This is a specimen of that genuine independence first adopted by Sir Francis Burdett, and which has not been lost upon many of his worthy compeers. But to return, Col. Wardle is a native of Cheshire, and was born in Chester, in 1762, within nine miles of his family residence. He is an only son of Mr. Wardle, of Hartsheath, in the county of Flint, where his ancestors have long resided, beloved by the peasant, and respected by their superiors. His father, who died several years since,

his determination to maintain inviolate the laws of his country and fealty to his sovereign, all prove that his character is alike unassailable by the charge of Jacobinism, or systematical opposition to His Majesty's government, or servile adulation to "the powers that be."—This is the true character of genuine independence and political virtue.

Col. Wardle having remained with his regiment till it was reduced by the peace of Amiens, in 1804, retired, like another Roman Cincinnatus, from the fatigues and pomp of a military career, to his rural pursuits, and passed his time in improving his estates, particularly in Caernarvonshire, where he devoted an ample fortune to the advancement of agriculture, and the farming of an extensive tract of ground.

At length, it seems, the education of Col. Wardle's children induced him to remove to Bath, where he resided about two years. Although retired and domestic, he was not obscure, as has been most falsely insinuated. The independent electors of Oakhampton, in Devonshire, in 1807, solicited him to become their representative, and at the poll, out of 113 voters, 88 were plumpers for Col. Wardle. How far he has since rewarded their generous confidence, in the discharge of his parliamentary duty, may now be attested by the voice of grateful millions.

Still it may be supposed, that, independently of the conduct of the Duke of York with respect to Mrs. Clarke, the outrageous abuses that have long subsisted in the War-Office, had no small share in inducing Mr. Wardle to come forward to expose them. Hence we find this gentleman, when introducing a motion on this subject in the House of Commons, on Friday, April 28, 1809, remarking, at the same time, that himself and his regiment, while in Ireland, had been sufferers by the abuses he then wished to have investigated. He added, that when there were only *ten* clerks employed in the War-Office, there was more business actually transacted than there had been after the number of these clerks so employed, at the nation's expence, were increased to *fifty*!

To return to the domestic concerns of Col. Wardle; after having been elected to serve in Parliament, he gave up his house in Bath, and removed, with his family, to London. He resided some time in Holles-street, Cavendish-square, and then removed to James-street, Buckingham-gate.

Col. Wardle had lately four sons and one daughter living, but has recently lost one of the younger branches of his family; and Miss E. Parry, now Mrs. Wardle, had an elder sister married to Mr. Jones Parry: these ladies were co-heiresses, and succeeded to very large estates on

the death of their father, notwithstanding the name of this family in Wales is said to be synonymous with beneficence.

We cannot sum up the character of Mr. Wardle in better terms than those made use of by his friend, Mr. Maddox, member for Boston, at the Reform Dinner at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, on Monday, May the 1st—"I have had the honour (said Mr. Maddox) of being with that worthy man for years. I have witnessed him in various capacities, ever ready to discharge his trust with ability and zeal. I have seen him exercise the laborious duties of Sheriff for three counties, with diligence and integrity; traits which have marked his character in all the various relations of a magistrate and a man; of a master and a great landed proprietor. There is inherent in him a quality which particularly suited him for the great cause in which he has so honourably succeeded: I mean that peculiar mildness of mind, which can never fail making a considerable impression upon the sober and impartial part of the community."

In fact, with respect to Mr. Wardle's temper, all who have the happiness of knowing him can testify, that he is mild and gentle to a degree of admiration. His passions are as calm and composed as his reasoning. He is not easily provoked, and of course not to be put off his guard.

with the facility of a more rapid and enthusiastic declaimer. Mr. Wardle is therefore so much the more formidable, in proportion as he is immovable. He has proved himself, according to Horace,

“ The man resolv’d, and steady to his trust,  
“ Inflexible to ill, and obstinately just.”

As a soldier and man of courage, as well as a patriot, Colonel Wardle has not been without a panegyric from the independent pen of Montagu Burgoyne, Esq. one of the members for Essex. As a patriot, this gentleman observes, in page 17 of his “ Letter to the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the County of Essex,” “ the conduct of Mr. Wardle was above all praise. His motive, patriotic and disinterested in the extreme, and his conduct, firm, manly, and determined. In the great world he was little known, but as an active and useful magistrate in Wales, the duties of which he for a time left to serve his country, in a fencible regiment commanded by the gallant Sir Watkin Wynne, who was conspicuous in setting an example, always followed by his regiment, by rushing into the hottest part of action when opposed to the rebels in Ireland. But, if possible, a still greater degree of courage was requisite to Colonel Wardle, when he had to contend with some members in the House of Commons. Being attached to no party, he met with opposition

from *Ministers*, and *little* support from their rivals. But despising their assistance, he supported himself by *evidence*, and pursued his object with such spirit and firmness, tempered by candour and moderation, that his name will ever be dear to the latest posterity."

I dare say, says a recent examiner, "when Mr. Wardle rises in the House, a sudden convulsion seizes the fibres of all the placemen, past as well as present; one trembles for himself, another for his agents, and a third upon every account."

This man (Mr. Wardle), whose memory is painfully exact, trusts to no powers but those of an honest confidence. While it has been found sufficient for Wardle only to shew his face in the House, the minister, in a state of trepidation, has been obliged to count the number of his friends present, and calculate his majorities accordingly, with an anxious concern for the results of Mr. Wardle's investigation. What a contrast!

Sir Francis Burdett, as it might be expected, was equally animated and pertinent in his observations upon the character of Col. Wardle, at the Crown and Anchor Dinner.

It was probably upon some knowledge of Mr. Wardle's amiable disposition, that we have heard of a poor country farmer in Yorkshire, who, not having more in his power, thought he might venture his tribute of respect to the good patriot in the

humble offering of a saddle of mutton, accompanied by a note, in which he said, "that he wished it were in his power, instead of one saddle, to send him ten thousand ; and that nothing would give him greater pleasure than to hear that Lord Folkestone, Mr. Whitbread, and Sir Francis Burdett, had each a slice."

A further proof of Mr. Wardle's disinterestedness appears in a late correspondence between him and the citizens of Rochester. The Common Hall of that place proposed to accompany their vote of thanks to Mr. Wardle with a piece of plate, value 200 guineas, and to publish their Resolutions and his answer together. Their intention, however, being made known to Mr. W. a mutual correspondence took place, the result of which was a declaration on the part of Mr. Wardle, expressing "his gratitude for the kindness shewn to him, but begging to decline accepting any present whatever, upon the ground that, having been so highly distinguished by the honours conferred upon him by the city of Rochester, and other places, he felt himself more peculiarly called upon to put it out of the power of any individual, even to insinuate that his future conduct could possibly be influenced by any other motives than such as would become an individual, to whose name the city of Rochester had attached so strong and enviable a mark of approbation."

It is not improbable, that Major Hogan's pamphlet, &c. reprobating the sale of commissions in the armies, and the unqualified reference which he gave to *females* employed by higher authority in that scandalous traffic, might have led the Honourable Colonel Wardle to seek out Mrs. Clarke, and to have several conferences with her, previous to his bringing the business before the House of Commons ; but in these conferences the honourable member owned, he believed, that he first mentioned the subject of the charges against the Duke of York to Mrs. Clarke : they did not come from her to him.

It was on the 27th of January, 1809, when this interesting investigation was brought before the House of Commons, by a motion made by Col. Wardle to enquire into the conduct of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, Commander-in-chief, respecting promotions, the disposal of commissions, and the raising of new levies for the army. The interest excited by this motion, and the subsequent appearance of Mrs. Clarke at the bar of the House, it is unnecessary to say has been since felt from one end of the empire to the other.

It was on Wednesday, Feb. 1, that Mrs. Clarke obeyed the summons to appear before this august assembly. So cautious was Mr. Wardle in his proceedings, that it appears from the following letter from Mrs. Clarke to Mr. Donovan, that he



had an interview with her on the preceding evening. It runs thus,

Wednesday Morning, 1st Feb. 1809.

Dear Sir,

I yesterday saw Mr. Wardle ; he had a letter yesterday from your friend Glasse (the Simoniackal Divine), begging him not to take any business in hand where his name is mentioned ; and he asks for you also. He was tutor to Wardle. Now Mr. Wardle assures me, by every thing honourable, that if you speak candidly and fairly to the fact of Tonym's, he will ask nothing more ; and if he has been at all intemperate with your name, he will do it every justice. *Take my advice and do it ;* it cannot injure you. I understand your friend *Tuck*, some months ago, put a friend of his in possession of Tonym's business ; and yesterday a man, of the name of Finnerty, gave him a case, which, he says, he had from you, of a Captain Trotter and another. Of course, you will not mention my telling you this. I wish from my soul Mr. Wardle had taken it up less dispassionately ; he might have done more good. Why don't you send me a line ? I dare say, Clavering is hugging himself, as he did not send the recommendation.

Your's, &c.

MARY ANNE CLARKE.

Here, it is clear, Mrs. Clarke laboured under a great mistake in conceiving that Mr. Wardle would have done more good, had he taken the matter up less dispassionately. But though Mr. Wardle was "*fortiter in re, et suaviter in modo*," his ultimate success did not result more from the goodness of his cause, than from that honest warmth with which he was supported by Lord Folkstone, Sir Francis Burdett, Mr. Whitbread, and others. Each of these, had the following question been put to them,

"Ask you what provocation I have had?"

Might have replied,

"The strong antipathy of good to bad."

Col. Wardle, in summing up the whole evidence upon Mrs. Clarke's business in the House of Commons, on Wednesday, March 8, was remarkably calm, temperate, and dignified. He said it was his leading object to represent the case in that form and manner most conducive to promote a fair and just decision. He owned he did feel considerably indignant at the motives attributed to him on the outset; motives that were evidently thrown out for the purpose of making it imagined he was treating the Commander-in-chief with more harshness than was proper or necessary. But as those insinuations had but little weight, he then returned thanks for the favour shewn him, and the

general attention he had received from the House. He even thanked his Majesty's Ministers for the tenderness they, in some cases, evinced towards his feelings, but for nothing beyond that. He mentioned, likewise, the comfort in the support he soon after received from Sir Francis Burdett ; and observed that the loss he felt in consequence of the honourable Baronet's ill health, soon after, was in a very great measure compensated by the abilities and strenuous exertions of Lord Folkestone. Mr. Wardle rejoiced in the idea that the Duke of York had had the support of the Crown lawyers ; because it must convince the world, " that every thing had been done for the Commander-in chief that could have been done."

Mr. Wardle then proceeded to animadvert upon the cases of Capt. Maling, Tenyn, &c. in which he urged many points against the Duke's advocates. What he observed in respect to Samuel Carter, who was Mrs. Clarke's foot-boy, must have been felt with great effect, as coming from a professional man. He observed, Samuel Carter had been in her service a year ; that, through her influence with the Commander-in-chief, he obtained his commission. It was proved that he went behind her carriage, waited at table, cleaned candlesticks, and performed many other menial offices ; and, that *the Duke knew him as Mrs. Clarke's foot-boy*. He had waited at table

on His Royal Highness and Mrs Clarke ; consequently, His Royal Highness voluntarily gave a commission to his mistress's foot-boy. After making some remarks upon Major Turner, Mr. Wardle concluded by observing, he would be the last man on earth to wound the feelings of this illustrious individual unnecessarily ; he had, he said, performed his duty to the best of his judgment ; but the duty he owed to his country was paramount to every other consideration. He therefore moved, That an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, stating, that his faithful Commons have had evidence produced at their bar of certain corrupt practices having existed for some years past in the disposal of commissions and promotions in the army ; that having carefully examined witnesses with due deliberation, they feel themselves, with concern and astonishment, obliged by their duty to their constituents to declare, that the result of their deliberate enquiries, after patiently examining a variety of documents, is, that in their opinion the existence of such corrupt practices has been substantially proved ; that they are restrained by personal respect from entering into a detail of all that has come out in evidence, as, they are convinced, the extent to which the abuses complained of have existed, could not be stated to his Majesty, without exciting in his bosom the most acute sensations of pain and indig-

nation. Without endeavouring fully to develop all the consequences of such abuses, they cannot refrain from pointing out one great evil likely to result from them; viz. should an opinion get abroad in the armies of His Majesty, that promotions were thus obtained, in a manner unjust to the army, and disgraceful to authorities which countenance them, its effects must be fatal. That it is the opinion of this House, that such abuses could not exist to the extent to which they had been proved, without the knowledge of the Commander-in-Chief; and if they did, if that could be urged in his favour, the command could not in safety or in prudence be entrusted to him any longer. His Majesty's faithful Commons are therefore of opinion, that the Duke of York ought to be deprived of the command of the army.

Though Mr. Wardle's resolutions, thus worded, were not carried, yet to his credit it must be owned, that in the debates on this business, a greater number of members gave their opinion, and more hours were consumed in the discussion than ever were known from the first formation of the House of Commons. Mr. Wardle had not only to contend with the formidable weight of Ministerial influence, but with the sophistry and chicanery of the Crown lawyers, with the saga-

city of the profound, and the spleen of the petulant.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer made a most elaborate, technical defence of the Duke, and proposed, first, a resolution by which the House should follow its determination to pronounce a distinct opinion on the charges, which he should follow up with another resolution, that there was no ground to impute personal corruption, or connivance, to the Duke, in the evidence produced at the bar. He should then propose an Address to the King, inclosing these resolutions, and stating the concern of the House, that a connexion had subsisted which exposed the Duke's character to calumny, and that frauds should have been practised with which the Duke's name had been coupled, of a most disgraceful and dangerous tendency ; that the deep regret at this connexion expressed by the Duke, had afforded great consolation to the House, which trusted, that the Duke would in future keep in view the uniformly virtuous and exemplary conduct of his Majesty, since the commencement of his reign, which had endeared His Majesty to all his subjects.

The Attorney-general was equally technical and elaborate.

Mr. Bankes was for instituting a different kind of address, stating the existence of pernicious practices, but without the Duke's personal parti-

cipation, though of such a nature, that the command of the army could not be continued in his hands, as the enquiry had unveiled conduct in him, highly injurious to the cause of religion, and the main springs of social order.

Mr. Yorke would not agree to either of these resolutions, and maintained that nothing had appeared to claim the interference of the House. His speech, like some others, was marked by scandalous insinuations, which caused Lord Folkstone to observe, that the last speaker's disgust at "*a popular cry*" came with a very ill grace from a quarter which had so successfully raised themselves by the ill-founded cry of "No Popery" when they first came into office. Mr. Wardle, he said, in the estimation of the whole country, was entitled to the utmost praise for his very meritorious services.

Mr. Adam endeavoured to exculpate himself from the charge of contradiction, and supported the minister.

Sir Francis Burdett compared the evidence given by Mrs. Clarke, with that of Mr. Adam's and Colonel Gordon, and her honour in paying her debts with that of the Prince who refused her annuity, because she could not produce his bond! There (said Sir Francis), there is "the honour of a Prince for you." Sir Francis was particularly happy in his remarks on the Attorney-general's

The Lord Mayor immediately exclaimed, "The question shall not be put." Mr. Waithman said, if the Chief Magistrate persisted in his refusal, the assembly could put another Alderman in the chair, and pass the vote.

Alderman Combe said, he could not witness the outrageous conduct of the Lord Mayor with silence. He said he had acted as if the Lord Mayor was to be EVERY THING in the City of London, and the Livery *nothing* ! At length the clamour for the question became so great, that Alderman Rowcroft, the last speaker, was obliged to desist ; when

The Lord Mayor rushed forward and said, that although contrary to his own inclinations, yet, for the sake of the peace of the City of London, the resolution should be put ; aye, and he would put it himself. His Lordship then put the resolution, which was carried in the affirmative, with some six or seven hands in the negative.

Fifteen resolutions that were moved and carried, stated in substance, that it had been long a matter of notoriety, and had been proved beyond a possibility of doubt, that abuses of a most corrupt nature, and ruinous tendency, had and still existed in various branches of the administration of public affairs ; that to detect these abuses, and expose them to detestation, required no small degree of virtue, all of which had been eminently



displayed by Gwillim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. who was therefore entitled to the thanks of the Common Hall, for his persevering and independent efforts ; that, for the same reasons, they do highly approve of the conduct of Sir Francis Burdett (the seconder), Lord Viscount Folkstone, Samuel Whitbread, Esq. Sir Samuel Romilly, Knt. and the rest of the 125 independent members who supported Mr. Wardle's proposition on the 15th of March, 1809.

It was further resolved, that no measures were likely to be adopted to remove the evils complained of, while the management of public affairs is in the hands of persons who are themselves the greatest pensioners and reversionists in the kingdoms.

That it appeared, by a report of a Committee of the House of Commons, that seventy-eight members of that House are in the receipt of 178,994l. per annum, out of the public money.

That, as a proof of the corrupt state of that House, all his Majesty's Ministers, all the Placemen, and all the Pensioners then present, voted against Mr. Wardle's proposition, while only one Naval and one Military Commander, voted with him !

That it was the opinion of the Common Hall, that as other Governments have crumbled into ruin, and other States had been subverted by the folly, profligacy, and vices of their rulers, so,

unless this overwhelming tide of corruption is resisted by temperate and timely reformation, it must inevitably lead to the ruin and subjugation of this country.

Resolved, That Alderman Combe be thanked for supporting Mr. Wardle's motion, &c. ; that Sir W. Curtis, Bart. Sir Charles Price, Bart. and J. Shaw, Esq. together with the Lord Mayor, are unworthy the confidence of their fellow-citizens ; and that the thanks of the Common Hall should be given to Robert Waithman, Esq. for his zeal and firmness on all occasions.

On Thursday, April 27, it appeared that Mr. Wardle had transmitted the following Letter to the Town Clerk of the City of London :

" SIR,

" April 15.

" The high and distinguished honour done me in the Vote of Thanks and freedom of the City of London, demands and has all due and respectful acknowledgment.

" I hope, Sir, you will do me the favour to communicate to the Common Council the high sense I entertain of so enviable and proud a distinction.

" I have the honour to be, Sir,

" Your obliged and very obedient servant,

" G. L. WARDLE."

" HENRY WOOLNORPE, Esq. &c."

The Lord Mayor, who, since this circumstance occurred, has been ironically called "The Flower of the City," met with several severe rebuffs from the populace on Easter Monday and Tuesday, on his way from the Mansion-house to Christ Church, Newgate-street. "This is the day of retribution!" "Bring out your rank butter, and your rotten cheese," were very unpleasant vociferations in the mouths of people, just beginning to discover by whom they had been duped and plundered. Caricatures, &c. almost infinite in number and variety, have since followed each other in rapid succession.

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### THE WESTMINSTER MEETING,

Which took place in Palace-yard, on Wednesday, March 29, was one of the first in consequence next to the City of London. The requisition delivered for the same to Arthur Morris, Esq. High Bailiff, was signed by twenty-five gentlemen, among whom were Messrs. Wishart, Sturch, Lambert, and Brooks. Mr. Sturch moved the resolutions. Mr. Wishart concluded an animated speech, by moving thanks to the different parties concerned in Mr. Wardle's undertaking.

Sir Francis Burdett declared, that out of the 658 representatives returned to Parliament, there

was not one who stood more aloof from party than Colonel Wardle. In originating the inquiry, therefore, he was actuated solely by a desire of public good. There never was any question which so completely falsified the idea of party. Never was there a time in which such inquiries were more necessary than the present. To be sure, it had been said that inquiries had taken place. But how had they been conducted? In the various peculations which had been proved, had the delinquents received the punishment due to their delinquency? They had not; and therefore it was idle to talk of inquiries while the Government was liable to corruption. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had brought in a bill to prevent the recurrence of these crimes against the country. He (the Hon. Baronet) had unfortunately been prevented from attending, in consequence of the infirm state of his health. Had he been enabled to attend in his place, he certainly should, if he could, have refrained from laughing at the absurdity of his proposition, and have given it his most decided opposition. It was ridiculous to support such an imagined remedy for abuses. The country had heard enough of Bills of Prevention. What good effects had resulted from their adoption? None. Gentlemen must recollect that my Lord Melville introduced a bill to prevent the improper appropriation of the monies

entrusted to him while Treasurer of the Navy, and when he was charged with the crime, he defended himself against the practices of which he was accused, upon the ground that the Act did not apply to his particular case. It was a mockery upon justice to depend upon the protection of such Bills. From the highest subject in the realm to the gaoler of Cold-Bath Fields, delinquency had been shewn. While he was talking of Bills, there was a Bill which formerly came home to the feelings of every Englishman—which was their birthright—he meant the Bill of Rights. That Bill, unfortunately, was now rendered almost a dead letter, and Magna Charta was become obsolete. If the Government had attended to those two Bills—if they had evinced a love for the Constitution in its antient purity, then indeed Bills of Prevention would not have been requisite. What was it that led to the downfall of some of our Monarchs?—A disregard to the rights of their subjects. Happy he was that now that danger did not exist. What was it, he would ask, that cost the Stuarts their abdication?—Want of management. If those unfortunate monarchs had known how to manage their Parliaments, they never would have been expelled. The honourable Baronet then adverted to the adoption of standing armies, as being dangerous to the liberties of the country, inimical to its interests, and

subversive of the Constitution. From these topics, he glanced to the present improved state of agriculture in the country. He regretted that young Noblemen of large estates should have turned themselves into farmers, cultivating their estates to the injury of the farming interest ; for, after fattening their beef and mutton, if the times were not changed, the Duke of Abrantes might eat it. He deprecated the adoption of the Board of Agriculture, and wished that instead of adopting such ruinous projects, they had endeavoured to mend the Constitution, to improve it, and restore it to its pristine splendour. In the course of his observations, when contending that corruption had been shewn to exist in a very great degree, he compared it to the monster represented as feeding on the liver of Prometheus, which, as he gnawed, the larger it grew ; so the monster corruption fattened and grew upon the heart of the people, which he was continually gnawing. With respect to the delicacy which some persons had thought was due to the Duke of York, as so nearly related to the monarch upon the throne, he declared he saw no such delicacy. The People's feelings were to be attended to. Many Members participated in the feelings of the people, out of doors, but he was afraid they were disregarded in the House. Was such conduct decent ? Could it have happened if the Constitution had been

pure? Upon the grand subject of parliamentary Reform, he again noticed the necessity for a thorough reform, in order to preserve the country from the yoke of a foreign enemy. If that was not attended to, no good to the people could arise. He did not care who Ministers were—from them the public could reap no benefit. It was only by a salutary adherence to the grand principles of the Constitution—to the original formation of representatives' franchises, that corruption could be put down. Having descanted at some length on this topic, he concluded with expressing his thanks to the Electors for the patient hearing with which they had honoured him.

The resolution of thanks to Mr. Whitbread being read, that gentleman rose, and, among other things, observed, that there was not one of the 658 representatives of the people, who would have undertaken the arduous task, except his friend Colonel Wardle, or who could have carried it into effect so soon, or with so little noise. He had known him in early life, and the promise which he then gave, had since been fulfilled—Independence of mind, and integrity of character, had marked his conduct in his parliamentary duties. It must be a great gratification to all to find, that there was nothing so low, nothing so poor, nothing that could be oppressed, but it would meet with protection. Colonel Wardle

would have been entitled to their thanks, if unsuccessful in his endeavours to correct those great and grievous abuses; but now they voted him their thanks with the most heartfelt pleasure, because he had carried on the Inquiry to a successful termination.

It was computed that about 4000 persons were present, and the Resolutions, admitting of gross and scandalous practices in the Administration, expressed that Gwillim Lloyd Wardle, by persevering in his Inquiry, in spite of the greatest difficulties and the most formidable opposition, had rendered important services to his country, and merited the thanks of the meeting. Besides Lord Folkstone, Sir Francis Burdett, and Sir Samuel Romilly, Major-General Ferguson, Henry Martin, Esq. Sir Thomas Turton, Bart. Thomas William Coke, Esq. John Christian Curwen, Esq. the Hon. Thomas Brand, the Hon. W. Lyttleton, Lord Viscount Milton, Lord Viscount Althorpe, Charles Watkins, W. Wynne, Esq. Lord Stanley, were included with the minority of 125, who voted in favour of Colonel Wardle's motion; as were also the minorities who supported Sir Thomas Turton, and the motion of Henry Bankes, Esq. And it was added, that any person hereafter advising his Majesty to reinstate the Duke of York, would, by such advice, prove himself an enemy to his country; and that the



of March last, hold lucrative appointments at the pleasure of the crown, a vote of acquittal, under such circumstances, must at all times appear extremely equivocal; but when given, as in the present instance, in direct contradiction to the evidence produced, no doubt can remain as to the motives that led to a decision so contrary to the expectation of the people, and so derogatory to the character of the House of Commons."

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### THE DINNER OF THE LIVERY TO COLONEL WARDLE.

The next circumstance arising from the sense which the citizens of this metropolis entertained of Mr. Wardle's patriotism, was the dinner given at the London Tavern, on Friday, April 21st. At two o'clock in the afternoon, the public entrance to this tavern was thronged with visitors; but none were admitted till three, when a temporary bar, which had been placed across the passage, was opened, and in less than an hour the great room would hold no more company.

About five the dinner was served up, after which Mr. Waithman, the chairman, accompanied by Colonel Wardle, Lord Folkstone, Mr. Whitbread, Mr. Cook, Mr. Curwen, Lord Archibald Hamilton, Mr. Byng, the Hon. T. Brand,

the Hon. Mr. Lyttleton, Sir Oswald Moseley, Mr. Alderman Combe, Mr. Tracey, Mr. Brown, and several other gentlemen, who had received special invitations, entered the room, and were by the stewards conducted to the upper table, under the orchestra; the company cheering the whole time.

Immediately after the removal of the cloth, as usual, THE KING was drank with the most loyal expressions of attachment to his Majesty. THE PEOPLE was next drank with the demonstrations of satisfaction not inferior to the preceding toast. Then, THE CONSTITUTION, *and may we always distinguish between its true principles, and its corruptions.*

The admission of company from the other rooms having produced a slight degree of confusion, Mr. Waithman read the rest of the toasts, as they follow, with an audible voice.

*The King and the People.*

*The Constitution, and may we always distinguish between its true principles and its corruptions.*

*Colonel Wardle, the man who has dared to be honest in the most corrupt times.*

*The health and prosperity of your worthy Chairman.\**

*Sir Francis Burdett, and a speedy and radical Reform of the Representation of the People in Parliament.*

\* Mr. Waithman.

Lord *Folkstone*, and may the generous fervor of public opinion never subside until our grievances are redressed.

Mr. *Whitbread*, the powerful advocate of reform.

Mr. Alderman *Combe*, and may we never in future be without four Representatives.

Mr. *Coke*, and the Freeholders of the county of Norfolk.

Mr. *Curwen*, the political and agricultural friend of his country.

Lord *Archibald Hamilton*.

Mr. *Byng*, and the Freeholders of Middlesex.

Lord *Cochrane*, and the British Navy.

Mr. *Lyttleton*.

Mr. *Brand*, and the Freeholders of Hertfordshire.

After which the healths of Sir *Oswald Moseley*, Mr. *Tracey*, Mr. *John Halsey*, were drank: then followed

General *Ferguson*, and may the Soldier never forget the paramount duties of the Citizen.

Mr. *Knapp*, and the Freemen of Abingdon.

Aldermen *Domville* and *Wood*, and Prosperity to the City of London.

Sir *Samuel Romilly* (Member for Wareham), Mr. *H. Martin* (Member for Kinsale), Mr. *C. Wynne* (Member for Montgomeryshire), and the rest of the 125 Members who supported Colonel Wardle's Motion in the House of Commons.

The Gentlemen who have taken on themselves the trouble of acting as Stewards on this occasion.

The Healths of Mr. Waithman were drank after he quitted the chair, which was filled by Mr.

Miller, whose health was also drank. The meeting dispersed at twelve o'clock.

Mr. S. W. Ryley, author of "*The Itinerant*," favoured the company with the following original and truly comic song :

FRIENDS of Freedom, attention ; your ears I'd engage,  
To a story not equal'd in History's page :  
What Englishmen wish'd for, but no one dared do,  
A Welchman began, and accomplish'd it too.

May the man who reduces  
State fraud and abuses,  
By Britons be hail'd in return.

When Corruption, like locusts, in every degree,  
Had destroy'd all the branches of Liberty's tree :  
Nay, the root to demolish, these vermin had hit on,  
Their progress was stopp'd by a bold ancient Briton.

These gorging *State locusts* now stood all aghast :  
" Who's this," they all cried, " who would check our repast ?  
" From our vengeance he surely can never escape,  
" Although he comes forth in a—*tangible shape*."

'Gainst the Hero these locusts made sure of the day ;  
But, fast as they came, still he brush'd them away,  
Till one, in whose face you Corruption might spy,  
Exclaim'd, "*My good friends, here's a Con-spi-ra-cy*."

temperance and resolution, it is impossible that the House of Commons should continue to be corrupt. But if that House should remain corrupt, still there is some hope from the mighty influence of public opinion ; for we have seen that the declared sentiments of the people of England have effected that important change without the walls, which could not be accomplished within them. I have heard it mentioned, that a ferment was likely to be raised in the country by these proceedings. Gentlemen, be not alarmed at such reports—be persuaded there is no ferment but the agitation Ministers think fit to excite, in order to answer their own purposes. Gentlemen, it is my pride never to have belonged to any party. I will belong to no party, for I want no support in the discharge of my public duties, but what I am confident I shall derive from the faithful service of the people. My great anxiety is to see adopted a plan of Reform, which will in its progress relieve you from the heavy burthens with which you are oppressed, and which will restore to you your acknowledged and honourable rank, to which you are entitled as Citizens of the State. It has been recommended to me by the Livery of London to be firm, and to set danger at defiance. I declare to you, that no danger shall prevent my pursuing that line of conduct which, Gentlemen, *has been sanctioned by your high approbation.*

that they contained the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Mr. Maddox expatiated with uncommon animation upon the extent of parliamentary corruption, till Sir Francis Burdett put the Resolutions collectively, which were carried. He then gave—

“The *Cause* for which *Hampden* bled in the field, and *Sydney* on the scaffold.”

The next toast was, “Mr. WARDLE, and may we ever possess an advocate with ability to detect, and courage to expose, corruption.”

Mr. Wardle upon this rose, amid universal and continued applause, and said, he was most truly obliged to the Meeting for the attention they had paid to him, which was extremely gratifying to his feelings, and such as he never could forget. If his parliamentary conduct had merited all the thanks he had received, all he could say was, “Little he had done, and he sincerely wished he could have done more.” It was not his desire to engross all the thanks : they were much better deserved by their worthy chairman, who had afforded him that assistance throughout he was so well able to give, and without meaning a compliment to him he would say, there was no man in the country of talent equal to give assistance so effectually. It was from his instructions that he had succeeded, and it was his greatest pride to call *this worthy man* his friend. The people of Eng-

Mr. Denison, who made a most luminous speech, after asserting that every department of the state was corrupt ; that the East-India Company had tainted and debased every branch of our administration, observed, that Mr. Wardle deserved, in his mind, a statue of gold, for having brought to light the dangerous and disgraceful vice.

He knew that Reform was branded with the epithet of Jacobinism ; but genuine Jacobinism was only to be found in these haunts of dissipation where rank debased itself by the most vulgar excesses, and where Ministers betrayed their trust by lowering the character of the magistracies, and the orders they were appointed to uphold. He called these lawyers the worst of Jacobins who degraded the character and lowered the dignity of the jurisprudence of the country, by exerting their talents rather to brow-beat innocence, than to demonstrate the truth ; and who, by their sycophancy and time-serving, shewed that the laws in their hands were cobwebs only to catch the feeble, but through which the powerful could easily escape. It was the profligate race of courtiers that were Jacobins, who, at the very time when they assisted Ministers to deprive mediocrity of its comforts, and poverty itself of its necessities, did not scruple to quarter upon the country all the relatives and dependants, and to put their

hands into the national purse for the payment of their personal debts. An awful lesson had been given to Sovereigns of the value of such Courtiers and Ministers in the late revolution in Spain, where the very Nobles and Grandees, who had been the first to advise the King to resist reformation, had been the first to swear allegiance to his enemy! Mr. Denison concluded a most animated speech, by saying, that, fearless of the unjust imputations that might be thrown upon them by those who supported the corruptions of the State, that they might participate in them—and, careless of the opinion of that cautious, calculating host, who kept aloof from exertion, that they might put themselves in the way to favour, he should propose a series of resolutions, in which he hoped for the concurrence of every gentleman present.

Mr. Whitbread gave the health of Mr. Denison, and regretted that he had not a seat in Parliament; for which he returned thanks in an elegant speech, concluding, that he hoped to see the wish of the departed patriot, Mr. Fox, fulfilled, “*A jealous Parliament and responsible Ministry.*”

The Resolutions agreed to on this occasion, besides thanking Mr. Wardle and his Colleagues, concluded by expressing the decided opinion of the Whig Club, that no substantial and perma-



ment good can be derived by the country from any change of Ministers, unless accompanied by an entire change of system—a Reform of all existing abuses in every department of the State, and an abolition of all unnecessary Places and Pensions, which recent events have clearly proved can only be effectually accomplished by a Reform of the Representation of the People in Parliament.

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### THE MIDDLESEX MEETING, AT THE MERMAID, HACKNEY.

On Tuesday, April 11, at one o'clock, the two sheriffs, Messrs. Smith and Hunter, took the chair, and read the requisition, signed by several respectable freeholders:—Colonel Tuffnel, Mr. Clarkson, Mr. Byng, Mr. Waithman, Major Cartwright, Mr. Griffiths, and Mr. Bentley of Highbury Grove, were the principal speakers: The latter said, that he wished, as shortly as possible, to call the attention of the Meeting to one circumstance relative to the late Inquiry, which appeared to him of prime importance;—he meant the pains which had been taken by Ministers, from the very beginning, to crush all inquiries into the abuses which had taken place in the army. He believed that, some time ago,

not fewer than twenty prosecutions for libels had been instituted against different individuals, for the purpose of putting down all inquiry, and preventing the corruptions which had been now detected from coming to light. But Mr. Wardle had broke the spell, and these abuses had become matter of universal knowledge, and of equally universal reprobation. This alone was a merit of no small value; and if these prosecutions were not abandoned, he trusted that the spirit of the people would brand them with their true name of *persecutions*, not *prosecutions*. He could not abstain from paying this small tribute to the conduct of Mr. Wardle, who, even on this score alone, was entitled to the thanks of his country—that men could now speak and write of these abuses without being liable to the appellation of libellers.

Major Cartwright, alluding to Mr. Wardle, compared him to the Leader of the People of Israel in the Desert, who had touched the barren rock, and out gushed streams of water. In the same way, by the conduct of Mr. Wardle, a spirit of patriotism had gushed out even in the House of Commons: he called upon them to recollect, that out of the eighty-three members of a majority who voted for Ministers on the last division, there were seventy-eight placemen and pensioners, besides a number of military officers,

who were dependent for promotion. He calculated, therefore, that on that division there was a considerable majority against Ministers, of all who had any claim to independence of acting.

Mr. Clarkson concluded his speech with moving, that William Mellish, Esq. one of the representatives of the county, had by his conduct in Parliament, during the late Investigation, forfeited the confidence of his fellow-citizens.

Mr. Mellish, in endeavouring to justify his conduct, was for a long time prevented by noise and hissing, and the cry of—*Off, off!* There was one point next to his declaration of having always acted conscientiously, which, he said, he wished them all to hear and to believe, which was, that Mrs. Clarke had never lived under his protection, as had been erroneously reported.

Mr. Waithman, in reply to Mr. Mellish, was extremely pointed. He said, it was a painful duty to him to censure the conduct of any man; but was it not extraordinary that not one individual in the room entertained the same opinion of the case of the Duke of York as Mr. Mellish. He had told them that he was no placeman nor pensioner. That might be true; but did he expect nothing?—"It had been stated, *that Mrs. Clarke had been solicited to make him a peer.*"

Mr. Mellish said there was no foundation for this story of the peerage.

However, it was moved and passed in one of the Resolutions, that Mr. Mellish, as a Representative of the county of Middlesex in Parliament, was unworthy of their confidence.

Between two and three thousand freeholders were present.

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## MEETING OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK.

This took place at St. Margaret's Hill, on Wednesday, April 12, for the avowed purpose of considering the late Investigation into the conduct of the Commander-in-chief. Soon after twelve o'clock, the room was so full that no elector could obtain admittance. The principal speakers were Sir Thomas Turton, Mr. Thornton, Mr. Alcock, and Mr. Favel. The speaking on this occasion appeared more like a desultory conversation than any thing else. Mr. Thornton, one of the Members for Southwark, made a very lame apology, in answer to Mr. Alcock, for abandoning the idea of a Reform in Parliament. He said, when Mr. Pitt proposed it, on repeated occasions, he had given that Minister his cordial support; but that when he abandoned it, in consequence of the alarm he felt at the French Revolution, he, Mr. Thornton, "felt a little alarm also," and was

anxious to postpone it to less dangerous times. However, the patriotic resolutions adopted by this meeting justified Mr. Alcock's assertion, "that Mr. Thornton had, in some measure, neglected his public duty, by not adopting the candid, manly, and honourable address recommended by Mr. Wardle and the 124 independent members, by whom that distinguished patriot was supported."

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#### MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF REFORM AT THE CROWN AND ANCHOR TAVERN.

This grand patriotic dinner, which had been previously announced by advertisement, had made such an impression on the public mind, that within two days antecedent to the time, a ticket for the same could not be procured at any price whatever: consequently it exceeded in number and respectability any of the kind ever remembered. When the doors were opened, the great room was filled in an instant; and the approach of Mr. Wardle and Sir Francis Burdett was welcomed by incessant peals of applause, till those illustrious patriots had taken their seats. Dinner being over, and Sir Francis in the chair, *he proceeded* to open the business of the meeting,

which he considered as a matter as interesting to the security of the throne, as it was to the liberties and happiness of the people. The subject was that of a Parliamentary Reform, of the necessity of which the gentlemen present were too well convinced to need any argument from him. He felt a difficulty in explaining the necessity of a Parliamentary Reform, because that was a self-evident proposition—it was like proving that day was day; but the propositions were so evident, that they could not be illustrated by example. Many persons had declared themselves friends to Reform in general terms, but had found it difficult to come to any precise determination; they would not, therefore, determine on what they thought fit to be done. He desired the company to consider what they would feel if a number of persons were to go down into the country among the proprietors of large landed estates, and to meet together, and to insist on their having the management of those estates, whether the owners choosed them or not. This he considered to be the condition of the majority of the present House of Commons; and that such a condition of things required amendment, was a proposition much too plain for argument. He recommended to the meeting a perusal of the Report which was made of the state of the representation in the year 1793, by a *society called* “*The Friends of the People*,”

and by which it appeared that 154 individuals returned a majority of the House of Commons. From such a state of representation much evil was to be expected, and much indeed had been lately exposed by the persevering exertion of his friend, Mr. Wardle, to whom the country was infinitely indebted for the discovery of so many abuses, and which had more effect than all the Reports of Commissioners to disclose any of them. All this, he maintained, led to a Reformation in Parliament. It might be asked, what did the friends of reform want?—the answer was, They did not seek for innovation; they claimed nothing but their ancient rights, for which their fore-fathers bled, and transmitted to their children the inheritance. The principles laid down in Magna Charta—the Petition of Rights—and the Bill of Rights. The Act of Succession, too, recognized all these rights and liberties of the subject;—principles on which, and on which alone, the present family was placed upon the throne; and they were the only principles which the present meeting was held to promote;—principles for an opposition to which King James the Second had been driven from the throne, and another family had been allowed to ascend it. He then took notice of the effect of modern corruption, and instanced the case of Lord Castlereagh, who had attempted to barter a writership

in India for a seat in the House of Commons, and particularly of the defence which has been set up for him by his colleagues—that he had not been able to accomplish the act of corruption which he had began. This reminded him of the case of a man of the name of Colonel Chartres, who, after leading a life of great infamy, was at last condemned to death for that of which he was not guilty; and it was said of him, that his fate was extraordinary, for that every day he lived he did something for which he deserved to die, but still escaped, and was at last convicted of a crime which he had not the power to commit, he being at a very advanced age found guilty of a rape! He contrasted this case of Lord Castlereagh with that of a person of the name of Hamlin, who was convicted of offering a bribe to Mr. Addington, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, now Lord Sidmouth, by which he was entirely ruined. He noticed also the severe sentences which many other persons groaned under in prison, and have done so for years, for crimes less dangerous to society than that of which Lord Castlereagh, a Minister of State, had been admitted to be guilty. He took a view of the case of the Duke of York, and observed, that the public were generous with regard to him, as well as every branch of the Royal Family, of whom he maintained the Prince of Wales to be by much the



I don't like to trust people who we think and know will put our money into their pockets if they can get hold of it, I don't see why the nation should be foolish enough to do so any more than as individuals. I don't want to see a rabble House of Commons—I wish to see in the House of Commons the sons of noblemen and gentlemen of landed property, whose situations shall set them above corruption; but I don't want to see that House filled with men, who are notoriously bought and sold like a bullock in Smithfield market, and in saying this, don't suppose that I am going beyond the truth—they themselves declared so. Why sooner than live under the government of such men a man would almost hang himself out of spite. I tell you candidly and plainly, that all your endeavours to get rid of corruptions and abuses are useless, unless we can obtain a Reform in Parliament. Only look at the case of Lord Castlereagh and Lord Clancarty, who were convicted out of their own mouths, of having negotiated for the sale of a writership to the East-Indies. The evidence of Reding, the go-between, and that of Lord C. prove the facts beyond all doubt. I have here a copy of the original evidence printed by order of the House themselves, for they are above all shame; and these persons are to be tried for this transaction this very day. *Do you think now that Lord Castlereagh will be*

turned out of that House?—It would be a great shame if he was! Whilst such things as these are going on in that House, no Reform can be expected to take place there—all the inquiries and commissions that are appointed are but another way of giving salaries. We never see any punishment inflicted on peculators, whose plundering transactions are brought to light, so that the only advantage we enjoy from those inquiries and commissions is, that of paying the wages of the commissioners.

“Once more I repeat, there is no hope of any change on these important matters, without that reformation which shall give to the people real representatives, and no longer suffer the nominal representation of ministers. I am sure that His Majesty wishes us success in this, for it is most particularly his interest to oppose that host of borough-mongers, who hold him in subjection. His Majesty is compelled to dispose of the favours of the Crown, as the borough-mongers choose to compel him; however they may appear to act in the House of Commons with more or less suavity, as occasion may require, all their votes, the votes of the borough-mongers, are bought and sold; that is the power which we must all dread.

“There is another subject of very high importance, and that is, the large number of foreign

troops now in the pay of Government, while the annual expence of the army amounts to no less a sum than Twenty Millions of money!—of that sum, if I am correctly informed, *Five Millions* go to the maintenance of the foreign part of our army. I have at this moment in my pocket the copy of a General Order, by which a foreigner born, a German, lately come into the country, is appointed the commander of the Eastern district of England. Is there a nobleman with English blood in his veins who can see this, and not feel indignant? and if there be that indignation felt, we surely can and ought to express ourselves properly on such an occasion. Supposing now that these troops are wanted, have we not British subjects capable or willing to defend their country?—If, however, the necessity of having foreigners in our service shall be admitted, they ought to take their chance in the ordinary routine of service; but that is not the case—they have made their bargain never to be sent out of Europe, whereby they are prevented from going to the West-Indies, while the soldiers of England are exclusively exposed to the mortality of that deadly climate. While *our* soldiers are sent to Spain, to fight the battles of Ferdinand the Seventh and the monks, and exposed to sufferings such as they underwent in their retreat to Corunna, the Germans are snug in the heart of England, and

In consequence of adopting Mr. Cobl amendment, the following were among the prominent of the resolutions finally adopted the meeting, and were signed by John Blackb Sheriff, who was publicly thanked for his duct ; with Lord Folkstone, Sir Francis Bur &c. &c.

That the thanks of this Meeting be give Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. for having i tuted the recent inquiry in the House of C mons, relative to the conduct of His Royal H ness the Duke of York ; for having, unconnec with, and supported by, any faction or pa prosecuted that laudable undertaking with te and zeal, temper and perseverance, rarely t met with ; and especially for having had th solution thus to discharge his duty, in defianc the threats of the King's servants, and in spiti the prejudices endeavoured to be excited agai his charges, through the false and hypocriti pretence that they proceeded from a Jacobin c spiracy ; a pretence which, for many years, has been the best ally of corruption, and thro the means of which pretence, artful and wic men have but too long stifled the voice of tr have abused the ear, and drained the purse this unsuspecting and loyal nation.

That, in the course of the above-named Inqui acts of meanness, profligacy, and corruption,

paralleled, as we firmly believe, in the history of any Government in the world, have been brought to light, and proved to our perfect conviction ; and that while we, as Englishmen and loyal subjects, cannot help feeling sorrow and shame at seeing the son, and indignation at seeing so many of the servants, of our Sovereign, involved in such scandalous transactions, we cannot, as men setting a proper value upon religious instruction and example, help entertaining the same feelings, and, if possible in an aggravated degree, at seeing deeply implicated in those transactions, no less than five Ministers of the Established Church ; nor can we refrain from an expression of our anxious hope, that the Clergy in general (following, in this respect, the example of the two Reverend Gentlemen who signed the requisition for this meeting), will lose no opportunity of inculcating an abhorrence of such practices, and thereby of shewing, that the Church, like her Founder, is no respecter of persons, and that her endowments are not received as the wages of dependence and sycophancy, but as the worthy hire of the labourer in the vineyard of christian piety, and of private and public virtue.

That if any doubt could have remained as to the baneful effects of such a state of the House of Commons, that doubt must have been removed by the rejection of Mr. Wardle's above-mentioned

proposition, in the teeth of the clearest and most conclusive evidence, positive as well as circumstantial, written as well as verbal; and upon which occasion it appeared that all the King's Ministers, all the Placemen, and all the Pensioners then present, voted against the said proposition.

That, in the Act of Parliament, commonly called the BILL OF RIGHTS, it is declared, "That the election of members of Parliament ought to be free," and, in the same Act it is declared, "That the violating of the freedom of elections of member to serve in Parliament," was one of the crimes of King James the Second, and one of the grounds upon which he was driven from the throne of this kingdom; but that, notwithstanding this law, which is said to be one of the great bulwarks of the constitution, and notwithstanding divers other laws, made for the purpose of preventing undue returns of members of Parliament, it does appear, from evidence given during the above-said inquiry, that Lord Clancarty and Lord Viscount Castlereagh, both of them servants of the King, and the latter a Privy Counsellor, a Secretary of State, and a Member of the House of Commons, did offer to give a writership in the East Indies, in exchange for a seat in the House of Commons, and that the failure of that corrupt negotiation was owing, not to any disinclination on their part, but on the part of the seat-seller, to whom the offer was made.

That this Meeting have observed, that, during a debate in the House of Commons, on the 20th of this month, upon the subjects of the aforesaid Inquiry, Thomas Creevey, Esq. one of the honourable minority of 125, did distinctly state, that it was not only his belief, but it was within his own knowledge, that Seats in Parliament had been bought and sold; that the Treasury not only openly bought and sold those seats, but kept, in a great degree, a monopoly of the market; and that it was perfectly well known, that a dissolution of Parliament was not an appeal to the people, but an appeal to the Treasury; and that this Meeting have further observed, that, in answer to this statement of Mr. Creevey (for which that gentleman is entitled to our particular thanks), the King's Minister, Mr. Percival, did not attempt to deny the facts alleged, but contented himself with insinuating, that the opposite party, when in power, had been guilty of similar practices.

That, from the foregoing facts, as well as from numerous others, notorious to the whole nation, this Meeting have a firm conviction, that it is in the House of Commons, as at present constituted, that exists the great and efficient cause of that profligacy of manners amongst so many in high life; of that corrupt disposal of offices; of that endless train of unpunished peculations;

- Mr. *Chamberlayne*, of *Weston*.
- Sir *Francis Burdett*, and Purity of Election.
- Lord *Folkstone*, and the Independent Nobility of England.
- Mr. *Whitbread*, and the rest of the glorious 125.
- Mr. *Waithman*, and the Independent Livery of London.
- Success to Major *Cartwright*, and the Westminster Meeting, on the 1st of May, for Reform of Parliament.
- Sir *H. Mildmay*, and the Independent Citizens of Winchester.
- The Independent Inhabitants of Southampton, and no influence under the *Rose*.
- The Independent Yeomanry of Hampshire.
- Mr. *Powlott*, and Parliamentary Reform.
- The Rev. Mr. *Powler*, and better Members of the Church than Dr. *O'Meara*.
- The Land we live in.
- Sing *Old Rose* and burn the bellows.
- The fate of General *Clavering* to the Clergymen who barely attempted to violate the virtue of the Duke of *Portland*.
- The Venerable 76, in the person of Farmer *Mearns* of *Fairthorne*.
- Andrew Marvell*, and his mutton-bone.

It should have been observed, that one of the resolutions respecting thanks, contained the following expressions of the Meeting:—We, as Hampshiremen, observe, with pleasure and with pride, the names of Sir H. Mildmay, Bart. and of Admiral Markham, and Newton Fellowes, Esq. while we, though not with very great sur-



prise, observe, and trust that the fact will be remembered, that the name of neither of the members for this county does appear upon that honourable list.

Mr. Chamberlayne, Esq. (of Weston) said he should second the single Resolution of Mr. Cobbett, in preference to those proposed by Mr. Powlett, for this plain reason, because it was clear, explicit, direct, and, in his opinion, to use a sportsman's expression, "*Hit the bird in the eye.*" He then enlarged on the great merit and services of Colonel Wardle. "Mr. Wardle had to contend against three prophets and a prophecy. The three prophets were Mr. Canning, Mr. Perceval, and Lord Castlereagh. These three wise men, who came, I suppose, out of the East, prophesied, that after all Colonel Wardle could do, nothing would be effected but a discovery of a *Jacobinical Conspiracy*; that they did distinctly profess and assert in the House of Commons. (*They were false Prophets.*) Now there was some truth, but at the same time a devilish deal of falsehood in this prophecy. There was a conspiracy certainly, but, unfortunately for these prophets and for their prophecy, the conspiracy turned out to be not against the House of Brunswick, but *by* the House of Brunswick against itself. It was a conspiracy of the *Governors against the governed.* Are we, said he, to look at

Col. Wardle in the light of an ordinary member of parliament, discharging a common routine of duty. We are bound, by every consideration that can lead to a just estimate of his character, to look at the time, the manner, and the circumstances, under which he discharged that duty. I beg of you all to count, if you can, the sacrifices that man has made, the risks he has incurred, the difficulties he has encountered, and the difficulties he has subdued. In the outset of the Inquiry he stood alone; and, in his progress, was supported but by few; but he was opposed by every courtier and dependent on Ministers. Count *them*, if you can, for they are, comparatively, almost as innumerable as the sands of the seashore. Yet, numerous as they were, they set in battle array against Col. Wardle. He has come out of the field covered with glory, and covering them with disgrace. Recollect, for God's sake, that nefarious assertion of His Majesty's Secretary of State, Mr. Canning, that if Col. W. did not substantiate his charges, he would be covered with everlasting infamy. But where does that infamy attach now? Against that host of obstacles, what had Col. W. to oppose? Honesty, patience, perseverance, and zeal, in the prosecution of the cause of truth; to which may be added moderation, when he had established a charge, absolutely unexampled. Is this coun-

ry so humbled; is its spirit so reduced; is the sense of right so blinded; are we so poor in thanks, that we cannot afford a tribute of applause to a man who has so exerted himself, and shewn qualities so unparalleled? I trust we are not so poor; the heart of every man, from one end of the country to the other, has already thanked him; and the voice of every man will do it at this meeting. (*All, all!*)

To add to the brilliancy and perspicuity of the speeches made by Mr. Cobbett, the last speaker, and other Gentlemen at this meeting, it may be necessary as a foil to them, to add an extract from that of one of their solitary opponents, the Rev. Mr. Poulter. This Gentleman seemed to aim at the climax of folly and nonsense. Speaking of Mr. Cobbett, he said, the strength of his eloquence went to the high admiration of Colonel Wardle, and being chiefly confined to thanks to Colonel Wardle, must be more highly valued by that gentleman, as coming *unmixed with baser matter*. The most objectionable part of the amendment in his opinion was, that *party* was mixed with *patriotism*. It contained extraneous matter, and reflections on his (Mr. Poulter's) profession. He declared that the cases of corruption among the clergy which had come out were reprobated by that profession universally; as a proof of which the Society of the Sons of the

that one of them has been punished by the Society of the Sons of the Clergy. But Dr. Glasse is not one of those same five Clergymen. The first is Dr. O'Meara, of whom I shall say nothing. The second is Mr. Beazeley, who appears to have offered to the Duke of Portland 3000*l.* to make him Dean of Salisbury. Next comes the *crazy parson*, Williams, who, if he had his due, would have been where Clavering now is; for, it appears, that after negociating with Lowten, he was sent to Mrs. Clarke—that is, to *tamper with a witness*. The next is the Rev. Mr. Lock, of Farnham, in which town I was born; he treats for the patronage of a cadetship in the East India service, which he must know the Directors are, by their *oath*, precluded from selling; they, perhaps, did not themselves sell them; but the intention of the law was known; he therefore acted a concurrent part in the breach of the oath. The last of the five is Mr. Lloyd, who sold a cadetship; consequently the same charge applies to him. I have thrown out no insinuations; Mr. Poulter well knows, that if there is any man, not being a clergyman, who has endeavoured to do good to the Church, I am that man; yet he reproaches me with not loving the Crown and Mitre.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Portal then spoke at considerable length, on the necessity of Parliamentary Reform.

Thanks were next moved by Mr. Powlett, to the High Sheriff, and carried unanimously.

Thanks were also moved and carried to Mr. Cobbett, Mr. Powlett, and the *rest of the sixty-nine* who signed the requisition.

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## THE CORPORATION OF WINCHESTER.

George Earle, Esq. Acting Mayor, had a meeting at their Guildhall, about the same time, and published, among others, the following Resolutions:—

That the thanks of this meeting be presented to Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. for having brought forward in the Honourable the House of Commons an inquiry into the conduct of His Royal Highness the late Commander-in-chief, and for his firm and manly perseverance in supporting the charges, and his strenuous endeavours to check the further progress of improper influence and corruption.

That the conduct of Sir Henry Carew Saint John Mildmay, Bart. our Representative in Parliament, in supporting Mr. Wardle on that occasion, entitles him to our warmest approbation and thanks.

That we deem it proper at the present juncture particularly to declare our unalterable loyalty and unshaken attachment to our king and constitution.

## READING BOROUGH MEETING,

APRIL 19.

Thomas Gleed, Esq. Mayor, in pursuance of a requisition, convened a meeting of the inhabitants of this Borough, to consider of the corrupt practices lately proved in the House of Commons; when the following Resolutions were moved by J. B. Monck, Esq. seconded by H. Marsh, Esq. and carried unanimously:—

That corrupt practices have been found to exist in the grant of commissions and appointments in the army, no less disgraceful to the character of the late Commander-in-chief, as a soldier, than ruinous to the public service.

That Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. is entitled to the thanks of his country, for the zeal, integrity, and intrepidity, with which he maintained the charges of corruption against his Royal Highness the Duke of York, in spite of the luke-warmness of the leading members of opposition, and the open hostility and direct menaces of ministers.

Resolved (with only one dissentient), That Charles Shaw Lefevre, one of the representatives for this Borough, has deserved well of his constituents, and conferred honour on their choice, by the plain, intelligible, independent, consistent,

decisive manner in which he acted and voted during the whole course of the late inquiry.

Unanimously, That our thanks are due to Sir Francis Burdett, Bart. who seconded Mr. Wardle; Lord Viscount Folkstone; Sir Samuel Romilly, Knt.; Samuel Whitbread, Esq.; Admiral Markham; the gallant General Ferguson, and the remainder of the 125 members who supported Mr. Wardle's motion.

(With only three dissentients), That the vote of the House of Commons upon the motion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the acquittal of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, from all knowledge of the corrupt practices proved, hath done violence both to the understanding and feelings of Englishmen, and affords a prominent and striking example of the very imperfect representation of the people.

That the only effectual barrier against the inroads of corruption is to be found in the constitutional resort to obtain a fair and faithful representation of the people in their House of Commons.

That the number of placemen and pensioners having seats in the House of Commons is a growing evil, contrary to an antient resolution of that House, destructive of the independence of parliament, and that the number ought to be restricted to certain officers of state, whose presence may be expedient in the House of Commons.

enforced the necessity there was of encouraging such men at this time. He then passed to the mention of a gentleman who stood in a near relation to them, and who had been throughout the firm supporter of Mr. Wardle, namely, Charles Shaw Lefevre, Esq. ; their worthy and valuable representative.—He observed, that on this occasion Mr. Shaw Lefevre had not imitated the example of many members (well meaning members perhaps) of the House of Commons, who had put their invention to the rack, and tortured and abused the good plain English tongue, in order to make nice shades and distinctions of criminality, and placed the Duke as a connoisseur does a fine picture, first in this light, then in that light, now on this wall, now on that wall, in order to adjust the Duke exactly to his right situation; but had uniformly voted for every motion which tended either directly, or indirectly, by charge or insinuation, to attach guilt upon the late Commander-in-chief.—With respect to the general system of corruption which prevailed, were he to attempt to detail the mischiefs of it, the sun would sooner go down than he could finish the catalogue. He farther observed, that such must be the complete success of the present spirit of the people, that he would venture to predict, that in patriotic festivals it will be a standing toast with



posterity, “ *Thanks to the Virtues of Lord Chatham, and to the Vices of Lord Castlereagh.*”

Mr. Henry Marsh then seconded the resolutions, in a speech where the most powerful argument was enlivened with the most happy sallies of good humour and pleasantry. We were met together, he said, to exert the undoubted right of Englishmen, and return our sincere thanks to *a true ancient Briton*, for having, by his firm, manly, and persevering conduct, been the means of disappointing a grand Duke who held a high station in the State, of which the great majority of the people thought him unworthy. He then expatiated at some length on the many difficulties Col. Wardle had to cope with, and paid his tribute of applause to Lord Folkstone, whom he described as an ornament to the country, a resident freeholder in this county, and he would he were something else for the county. He observed that the Duke had been very fortunate in that he had met with several friends, who had kindly taken a considerable weight of infamy from his shoulders, and placed it on their own. He said His Royal Highness’s managers reminded him of the treatment of Gulliver at the court of Lilliput, who, they would all remember, had extinguished a fire in the queen’s palace, by a process wholly subversive of a fundamental law of the land; but this great criminal being at the same time a great nardac, or

courtier, it was strongly recommended by the court that he should not be found guilty. He then adverted in a humourous strain to the patronage of Mrs. Clarke, and remarked, however infamous she might be, she had acted impartially; for though it might appear strange she should use her influence within the pale of the church, yet, considering she was under the protection of a bishop, as well as a soldier, it seemed but fair she should extend her patronage to both the professions, and thought, after the pathetic sermon preached by Dr. O'Meara at Weymouth, the least His Royal Highness could do, would be to resign his right and title to the Bishopric of Osnaburgh in favour of the Reverend Doctor, and leave him to serve Bonaparte with a writ of ejectment. He next compared Mrs. Clarke to a winnowing-machine, which had divided the chaff from the wheat; and considered those who voted only for Mr. Banks's motion, as the chicken's meat. He then alluded to a London Alderman, who, in defending his conduct to his constituents, declared, if he erred in opinion, it was with Noble Lords, with Honourables, with Right Honourables, and the great majority of the legal ability of the country—such may be the opinion of those persons, but he was happy to find that the country was now taking the opinion of another Right Honourable (in the true acceptance of the word) he meant the *Right*

*Honourable John Bull*, whose opinion on plain matter of fact, like the present, he would take in preference to that of the Right Hon. Attorney-general. He then asked what could be the reason that the great majority of the country should have been of one opinion on the subject, and the majority of parliament of another, and concluded that the only reason in his mind that could be given for it was, the imperfect mode of representation at present existing.

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### BERKSHIRE COUNTY MEETING.

Monday, April the 17th a meeting of about fourteen hundred freeholders and inhabitants of Berkshire, was held in the Town Hall, Reading, Sir Theophilus Metcalfe, Bart. High Sheriff, in the chair.

Sir John Throckmorton observed that, being one of those who had signed the requisition, he was called upon to propose some resolutions relative to the late investigation. They tended to declare the opinion of the county on the abuses, which had crept into various departments of the state, and had arisen to a height, which must be attended with irremediable destruction to the country, if the late investigation was not followed by a complete reform. No hope of this necessary event

could be entertained, unless the voice of the people was heard aloud and firm to demand it. One of the objects of reform, to which the eyes of the nation were most naturally directed, was the shortening the duration of parliament. He traced in a most forcible and eloquent manner the history of parliaments; mentioned and answered all the objection that had been made to triennial parliaments, during which the country had attained its glory under the Duke of Marlborough. He said, that if ministers were at any time, as might be at present the case, afraid to take the sense of the people, they might vote themselves into a decennial parliament. The Hon. Baronet's speech was distinguished for dignity of feeling, strength of expression, exemplary moderation.

The resolutions, which follow, were then read, and passed almost unanimously :—

1. That the recent investigation into the conduct of the Commander-in-chief, and the result of the other late inquiries, fully satisfy this meeting of the existence of the most scandalous abuses in the several departments of the executive government of the country.

2. That Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. by his unexampled courage, ability, and perseverance in the inquiry into the conduct of the Duke of York, has faithfully discharged his duty as a Member of Parliament, and has in a high de-

gree merited the thanks and approbation of his country.

3. That the thanks of this meeting be given to Sir Francis Burdett, who seconded Mr. Wardle's motion, to Lord Viscount Folkstone, for the active, uniform, and able support which he afforded to Mr. Wardle, to Charles Shaw Lefevre, William Lewis Hughes, and George Knapp, Esqrs. (members representing Boroughs within this county) and to the remainder of the 125 members who divided with Mr. Wardle on his motion for an address to His Majesty, in full confidence that they will persevere in the investigation and reform of abuses till corruption be fully rooted out, and the people have the satisfaction of knowing that the sacrifices they make for the public good are not perverted to base and improper purposes.

4. That this meeting is convinced that the abuses which we lament, would not so long have existed without that culpable negligence and dereliction of duty which the late majorities in the House of Commons have evinced.

5. That in order to secure in future a due vigilance and attention to the rights of the people, so essential to the welfare of a free government, it is requisite that the duration of parliaments should be shortened, and that no parliament should have any continuance longer than for three years, as

enacted by a law passed in the reign of King William the Third.

6. That George Vansistart, Esq. representative of this county, has, by his conduct on the late inquiry, proved himself unworthy the confidence of his constituents.

7. That the conduct of Charles Dundas, Esq. representative of this county, on the late inquiry, has not in this instance met with the approbation of his constituents.

8. That from the part which ministers have taken on the late inquiry, no hope can be reasonably entertained of any effectual reformation of evils so generally and loudly complained of, until the executive department of the State shall be entrusted to men, who will honestly endeavour to detect, not shield, abuses, and to whom the people may look upon as the avengers, not the abettors, of corruption.

Mr. Hallett, in seconding the resolutions, congratulated the country on a victory—not the taking of Vigo, or of Martinique—but it was a victory over corruption, which must yet be followed up by fresh attacks and fresh victories, or little practical good would be derived from what had been done. He descanted on the Duke of York's conduct in several parts of his administration, and particularly in his connection with Mrs. Clarke, who,

he said, might as well give intelligence to our enemies, as commissions to our officers. Any other man, he said, who saw his mistress every day beset with officers, would naturally imbibe a great degree of jealousy. This was not the case with His Royal Highness: he knew that they crowded the levee of Mrs. Clarke for very different purposes.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer had indeed brought a bill for preventing abuses; but this was not done, though he saw advertisements every day to perpetuate them, till Mr. Wardle had taken the film from his eyes. The present Ministers, he observed, were the weakest part of the Heaven-born Minister's administration. At his death they resigned their places, because they found themselves, what the country has since found them, unable to carry on the business of the country. He exposed the conduct of the Crown Lawyers, who considered themselves, as soon as they rose to their posts, to have received a retaining fee to support the Ministers through thick and thin. He concluded, that the first step towards preventing abuses, would be but to return to the constitutional mode of triennial parliaments.

## SALISBURY.

The Wiltshire Meeting held here, on the 17th of May, consisting of the Freeholders, Landholders, and other Inhabitants of the County of Wilts, to return thanks to Mr. Wardle, for its number and respectability has had nothing equal to it in that quarter within the memory of man. The business was opened in a most eloquent speech by Henry Hunt, Esq. of Sans Souci Cottage. He said that the members of Government, when Mr. Wardle brought forward his charge, asserted, that there was a *Jacobin Conspiracy*. It turned out, however, that the conspirators were not Col. Wardle, Sir F. Burdett, Lord Folkstone, Mr. Whitbread, or any of the Minority of 125, *but the Duke of York himself*, who had been conspiring against the House of Brunswick! There was, indeed, another foul conspiracy—a conspiracy against our laws; against the act of settlement which placed the House of Brunswick on the throne, of which one member of the Government was lately convicted.

After thanking Col. Wardle, you will not, said Mr. Hunt, withhold your thanks from Sir F. Burdett, because hireling writers, placemen, and pensioners, have been lavish in their abuse of that exalted character. (*Loud applause.*) Mr. Hunt, alluding to the gross corruption of the State, ob-



served, “ This, Gentlemen, is a subject on which a numerous class of persons in this kingdom feel particularly tender ; for, not a word on this point can we mention, but out flies the whole crew of placemen and pensioners from Lord Castlereagh and John Bowles, those *pure* and *immaculate* characters, down to the very window-peeker. (*Applause—Hear, hear! Huzza!*) All of them open-mouthed, with one accord, join in the full cry of Jacobinism ; and an attack *upon the prerogatives of the Crown*. But so far are we from wishing to attack the Crown, that our most earnest object is to support the real prerogatives of the Crown. We want to get rid of that influence which holds the Crown *in subjection*. Our efforts are solely directed to the rescuing of the country from those imminent perils into which it has been brought by the progress of corruption. The very word *pension* is odious. Dr. Johnson says, “ A pension is an allowance made to any one without an equivalent.” In England, it is generally understood to mean pay given to a state-hireling for treason to his country.” (*Loud cries of—so it is—the true meaning.*) And a pensioner, he says, is “ A slave of state, hired by a stipend to obey his master.” An authority, happily illustrated by the well-known lines of Pope ;

In Britain's senate he a seat obtains,  
And one more pensioner St. Stephen gains.

Let any man, said Mr. Hunt, look at the annual expenditure of the nation, which, within a very few years, has increased from sixteen millions to the enormous and incredible sum of more than seventy millions ! Let any man look at this single fact, and then say, whether it is not necessary to check that corrupt influence to which we are indebted for this lavish expenditure. But the existence of corruption is no new doctrine; for since the Act for triennial Parliaments was passed, we have had no fewer than sixty-five Acts of Parliament to secure the freedom and purity of election, of which acts, sixteen or seventeen were passed during the early part of the present reign, and sorry I am to say, with little effect. Corruption is a crying and selfish evil, and there surely cannot be any man so weak as to expect that the House of Commons will reform itself; it might as well expect that a malefactor, while there is a chance of a reprieve, should put the halter round his own neck, and drive the cart from under him, as that Parliament should reform itself. (*True, true! Loud and continued applause.*) The House of Commons can never be reformed while there is a majority of placemen and pensioners sitting in it. (*Never, never.*) That corrupt influence, which is now become so notorious, has been eloquently described by the late Mr. Burke, as “the everlasting spring of prodigality, the destruction of

the liberties of the people, and of the wisdom of our counsels." Nor was the opinion of the immortal Chatham less decisive on this important subject. He most energetically observed, "that what was called the management of the House of Commons, that is, the exertion of corrupt influence, was unknown to the Constitution." There are large sums in the public accounts sunk under the head of *secret service money*. Boroughs are bought with the money that comes out of our pockets to pay for secret services; bought for some state-hireling, who receives a pension for supporting the minister. If England is to be saved from the fate which has overtaken Holland, Italy, and Prussia: from that fate which now threatens Austria, we must begin immediately with the important work of rooting out those corrupt practices which have more powerfully contributed to the downfall of those governments than all the armies of Napoleon. You must instantly set about this great work with firmness and perseverance, but at the same time, with temperance and moderation; for the constitution of England, of which we must never for a moment lose sight, does not admit of this great object being effected in any other manner. We are assembled in this place to support that Constitution, of the violation and infringement of which, we complain; and let it be remembered, that we are not assembled in

this place as a matter of indulgence, or to c  
 any favour ; we are assembled here to exercis  
 indisputable rights, and to which we all know  
 feel we are entitled to. (*Applause.*) If Eng  
 is to be saved, the people must be assured  
 they are fairly dealt by, and the money prod  
 by the load of taxes with which they are also  
 vily burthened, is spent honestly. (*That's a*  
*want.*) As to the resolutions I am now to  
 pose, I think every one must feel the abs  
 necessity of a Parliamentary Reform (*The*  
*do ; loud applause*); and feeling that necess  
 don't know why we should not set the exam  
 this county. It is of no use to petition the  
 liament—that is out of the question ; we mu  
 tition the Throne. It is expedient that we sh  
 meet at some early day, to petition His Ma  
 to assist us in this great and necessary unde  
 ing, and in enabling us to preserve the laws  
 land. Here Mr. Hunt offered his acknow  
 ment to the meeting for the attention they  
 paid him, observing, that he yielded to no n  
 zeal for the welfare and preservation of the  
 try, and introduced Lord Bolingbroke's re  
 that “the constitution of England is the bu  
 of every Englishman.”

Not above three persons, out of as many  
 sands who had assembled, objected to the r  
 tions proposed by Mr. Hunt.

Mr. Bleek, then, in a most animated speech, proposed a vote of censure on the conduct of the Representatives of the County of Wilts, which was carried by acclamation.

Sir Charles Warre Malet was in the chair during the business of the 17th of May, in the Council Chamber of the City of New Sarum ; and among the spirited Resolutions passed on the occasion, were the following :—

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. for having instituted the recent inquiry in the House of Commons relative to the conduct of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, as Commander-in-chief ; for having, unconnected with, and unsupported by, any party or faction, prosecuted that laudable undertaking with unexampled magnanimity, talent, zeal, temper, and perseverance ; and especially for having had the resolution to discharge his duty, in defiance of the threats and prejudices excited against him by the King's Ministers, and by many of the leaders of the opposite party.

Besides thanking the whole minority of 125, it is added, “ That we, as Wiltshire men, observe with pleasure the name of that venerable and truly independent senator, William Hussey, Esq. who, for NINE successive Parliaments, has represented the City of New Sarum with ability and perseverance, and with undeviating integrity and inde-

pendence; of Thomas Goddard, Esq. member for Cricklade, and of Benjamin Walsh, Esq. member for Wootton-Basset, in this county, while we observe, with *indignation and regret*, that the name of *neither of the members for this county does appear in that honourable list.*

The resolutions, which, generally speaking, were the repetition of Mr. Hunt's speech, respecting a reform in Parliament, concluded thus:—

That Henry Penruddock Wyndham and Richard Long, Esqrs. the representatives of this county, have, by their late conduct in Parliament, proved themselves *undeserving the confidence of their constituents, and of the future support of this county.*

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## DOVER.

Here a Common Hall was convened by E. Thompson, Esq. Mayor, in compliance with a requisition, signed by a body of Freemen, to consider a vote of thanks to Mr. Wardle, to Mr. Jackson, one of the representatives of Dover, to Mr. Honeywood, one of the representatives of the county, and the other members of the House of Commons, who supported Mr. Wardle in the business of the Duke of York. The resolutions were moved by Mr. George Finch; after which an amendment was moved by a Mr. Beauchamp, a native of Dover, but a resident in London, which

was negatived ; and the resolutions, with thanks to the Mayor, for his impartial conduct, were carried unanimously.

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### DEAL.

This Borough met on the 30th of April, when after voting the thanks of the Court to Mr. Wardle, Mr. Honeywood, one of the members for Kent, for their manly conduct in Parliament, they added the following resolution :—

“ That the court beg to declare their firm attachment to their Sovereign and to the constitution ; but at the same time they cannot forbear to express, that, as long as public abuses exist, the country can never expect to enjoy the beneficial and happy effect of that constitution which is the pride of Englishmen, and the admiration of the world. This court, therefore, humbly hopes that the Honourable House of Commons will persevere in the investigation and reform of such abuses, till corruption, which has been the downfall of other States, is fully rooted out, and the people may have the satisfaction of knowing and feeling that the sacrifices they make are for the *public good*, and not perverted to *base or improper purposes*.”

## ROCHESTER.

A Common Hall was held here on Monday, March 29, at Rochester, to consider of the propriety of passing a vote of thanks to Mr. Wardle, &c.

The chair was taken by the Mayor, who informed the Common Hall of the nature of the business: he told them that they had read the evidence, and were capable of forming an opinion upon the justice of that accusation; they had seen the immediate consequence of it in the resignation of the Duke of York; and they might form some estimate of the great advantages, that must finally result when they saw that the House of Commons had brought forward a Bill to prevent the *Influence of Corruption*. There was one topic on which he would touch before he sat down, and that he felt himself bound, as a Magistrate, to inculcate upon their minds; it was the necessity of avoiding party. They should join hand and heart in defence of the Constitution, and they would still continue to be the envy and the admiration of the world; while all the other parts of the world were at variance, they might depend upon being successful, if they would but unite.

Mr. Simmons said, he would leave the Commander-in-chief to enjoy his retreat at Oatlands,



and feast upon the *honour of a Prince*; but he must say, that the Commander-in-chief had fallen from his situation to the *great benefit* of the nation at large. It was a matter of great consolation to the people to find that they had one hundred and ninety-six honest representatives, who had voted their disbelief of the *honour of a Prince*. If there was only the letter to his darling angel—*A laugh*—if there was only the ridiculous attempt to prove the note to Major Tonyn a forgery, it would be enough to establish the criminality of His Royal Highness. He offered his tribute of respect to the manly boldness which Mr. Wardle had displayed on that great occasion, and concluded with moving the following resolutions:—

Resolved—“That this meeting, duly sensible of the advantages the country will derive from the charges produced by G. L. Wardle, Esq. M. P. in the Honourable House of Commons, against the late Commander-in-chief, the same having, as this meeting conceives, occasioned his resignation; and highly appreciating the collected and dignified manner he conducted himself throughout the arduous and critical investigation; beg leave to offer him their best and most grateful acknowledgments for his manly, zealous, and patriotic exertions.”

Resolved—“That the best thanks of this meeting be given to Lord Folkstone, Sir Francis Bur-

dett, and Samuel Whitbread, Esq. M. P. and those other members of the House of Commons who supported Mr. Wardle, on the late momentous question."

Mr. Thomas E. Hulkes rose to second the motion. He thought that Mr. Wardle deserved as well of his country, as any naval or military hero recorded in its annals: he had not gained a victory over a foreign enemy, it was true, but he had vanquished a domestic one—*corruption*.

The resolutions were then put, and carried unanimously:—

The Rochester Meeting was soon followed by a public dinner in that city; when about seventy persons (friends to a Reform in Parliament,) sat down to an elegant repast provided for the occasion, at the Bull Inn, Thomas Edward Hulkes, Esq. in the chair; Charles Thompson, Esq. Deputy. As soon as the usual toasts of King, Queen, and Family; army, navy, &c. had gone round, Mr. C. Larkin rose, and, after a short preface, proposed several spirited resolutions, which were each separately proposed and passed unanimously. The chairman then gave Mr. Wardle, which was drank with enthusiasm. The health of the chairman was next proposed, which was drank with three times three, attended with the warmest marks of approbation: he returned *his thanks* in a neat speech, declaring himself an

enemy to corruption, and a friend to Reform in Parliament. He then begged to propose the health of Alderman Cooper, and the Independent Corporation of the City of Canterbury ; which was drank with hearty cheers. Mr. Alderman Cooper returned thanks in a very handsome manner for the honour done him and his brethren of the Corporation of Canterbury. The healths of the Mayor, the Deputy Chairman, Mr. James Hulkes, Mr. Calcraft, Mr. James Barnett, Sir F. Burdett, Lord Folkstone, Mr. Whitbread, &c. &c. &c. were then drank, accompanied by the loudest plaudits. Several appropriate songs were sung, and at eleven o'clock the Chairman quitted the chair, which he had filled with universal satisfaction to the company, who were highly gratified with the hilarity of the evening.

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### MAIDSTONE.

This Meeting was held on Friday, April 21st, in pursuance of an appointment by the Mayor. Mr. Justice King opened the business, in the absence of the Mayor. Mr. James Smyth was then unanimously called to the chair, and Mr. Wm. Edmeads, addressing him respecting Mr. Wardle, made the following observations :—

Since, to his lasting honour, the name of Mr. Wardle is made the vehicle by which the people

of England choose to express their opinions at this particular crisis, it behoves me to remark on his public conduct, that it appears to me to have had real patriotism for its foundation, and to have been unexceptionably good. Had he been instigated by any motives of private pique, or personal hatred, against the Duke of York ; had he been influenced by any rankling resentments ; had he been in the hands of the notorious Mrs. Clarke, an instrument to glut and satiate her revenge, he certainly would have adopted a different course of proceedings : he would have scattered (as he plentifully possessed) the seeds of odium over the character of the Duke : he would have excited popular prejudices, and have kindled the public mind against him ; that having first effected his general discredit with the people, he would have almost insured his condemnation with the Parliament. But Mr. Wardle acted upon other principles : he fairly, candidly, and constitutionally, brought before the House of Commons the facts he had to alledge, and, unterrified by all the Ministers, and unsupported by any party, rested his responsibility, his character, and his cause, on the evidence he had to adduce in support of them. Mr. Wardle, therefore, seems to have been solely actuated by the love of public justice, and, as such, is entitled to the admiration and gratitude of his country.

After the resolutions were read, the same in substance as those adopted at Hythe, Rochester, &c. &c. Mr. John Russel rose to second them, and spoke to the following effect :—

Mr. Chairman—"I rise to second the resolutions of my worthy relative ; but after the manly, firm, and energetic remarks he has made on the resolutions offered for the approbation of this respectable meeting, he has left little for me to say, that can throw new light on the subject ; yet, sir, I cannot omit the opportunity of expressing my feelings on the occasion. Sir, when the honourable gentleman, Mr. Wardle, first brought forward his charges against His Royal Highness the Duke of York, I confess I was astonished, and could not help putting this plain question to myself,—who is this Mr. Wardle that has taken so great a responsibility upon himself? has he any thing to lose ? Yes, sir, I find on inquiring, he is a gentleman of integrity and character, and, consequently, has to preserve that dearest gem that can be worn in the breast of a man, namely, his reputation. He pledged himself on the outset of his inquiry, that he would bring to light gross and foul corruptions! and which he has fully proved by the most uncontradictory evidence, notwithstanding every means that could be resorted to, to baffle his proceedings ; still he per-

severed, coolly and deliberately, founding his cause in truth, which is the basis of all virtue, and must ultimately succeed. Sir, to the honourable Baronet, Sir F. Burdett, as seconder of the motion, he is entitled to our warmest thanks : he, sir, has always stood forward the avowed friend of the people, and consequently the declared enemy of corruption, and he has pledged himself to support inquiry, and by every constitutional means in his power, to root out corruption in whatever department it can be discovered ; and he has by his uniform conduct in support of a Parliamentary Reform, so endeared himself to the people, that we see him selected and sent by a large majority of one of the first cities in Europe as their representative ; would to God every county, city, and borough, in the United Kingdom would follow their example ; then the people of England would be fairly represented, and meetings of this sort would not be required ; for corruption, in attempting to rear its head, would be destroyed in its infancy. Gentlemen, for the attention with which you have heard me, I return my sincere thanks : I beg to give my decided approbation to every sentiment contained in the resolutions."

## CANTERBURY.

A Court of Burghmote was held in this city, on Tuesday, March 21, for the purpose of hearing read the Thanks to Mr. Wardle, voted by the Corporation of Canterbury; with the Resolutions similar to those passed at Maidstone, Hythe, &c. To which being added the Freedom of that City, it gave rise to the following letter from Mr. Wardle :—

London, March 23, 1809.

SIR,—I have the favour of your letter, accompanying the Freedom of the City of Canterbury. That the Mayor and Commonalty of that ancient and loyal City should deem my parliamentary conduct worthy of so distinguished a mark of their approbation, is highly gratifying to my feelings ; and I beg through you, sir, to offer them my warmest thanks and acknowledgments, for the high honour they have conferred on me.

I am, sir, with much respect,

Your obliged and obedient servant,

G. L. WARDLE.

Thomas Hammond, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

## HYTHE.

The Resolutions adopted here on the 17th of April, do great credit to the framers of them.— Richard Shipden, Esq. Mayor, in the chair :

It was resolved, That the notorious existence of flagrant abuses in various departments of the state, has long been the subject of serious regret : and this canker-worm of corruption, which preys on the vitals of industry, if not timely arrested in its destructive progress by an efficient reform, must ultimately absorb the resources of national prosperity, and involve the empire in irretrievable ruin.

That we deplore, in common with every well-wisher to his native land, the galling privations daily experienced by all classes of the community, who groan under the onerous pressure of grinding taxation. While, on the other hand, morality is outraged by the profligate extravagance of exalted rank, and the afflicting consideration, that the resources so liberally granted, and so shamefully misapplied, are wrung from the toilsome exertions of a brave, generous, and loyal people.

Under these circumstances, as Britons, we wish to see constitutional remedies applied for the removal of such enormous evils, and to contribute to the salvation of our country, by rallying round



and supporting the patriotic energies so eminently displayed, during the recent investigation of abuses, before the House of Commons

Impressed with this sentiment, we unequivocally return our warmest thanks to Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. M.P. for his dauntless intrepidity and manly firmness on the late trying occasion, who, unawed by power, unbiassed by interest, boldly attacked corruption in her strong hold, and who, single-handed, entered the lists against the whelming phalanxes of influence and patronage.

That duly sensible of the obligations which the Nation at large owe to the virtuous minority of 125, who voted for Mr. Wardle's motion respecting the criminal conduct of the Duke of York as Commander-in-chief, we hereby tender the tribute of our grateful thanks to Sir F. Burdett, Bart. Lord Viscount Folkstone, Sir S. Romilly, Knt. General Ferguson, Samuel Whitbread, Esq. C. W. Wynne, Esq. W. Honywood, Esq. (member for this county), and the rest of that patriotic band, who stood, as it were, between the living and the dead, and arrested iniquity in the zenith of her career.

Meantime we unequivocally express our abhorrence at the conduct of those, who, contrary to the dictates of common sense, voted with the Minister ; and we hereby declare them to be, in

our opinion, unworthy of public confidence, and to have justly merited the censure of all honest men.

Finally, we sincerely trust, that the consoling reflection of an approving conscience—the well-earned meed of public praise, and, above all, the cheering hope of complete success, will operate with these faithful guardians of the people's rights as a stimulus to unrelaxed exertion, and that their unremitting perseverance will eventually purge from the British soil the polluted film of baleful venality.

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### THE GUILDFORD MEETING

Was held at the Town Hall, on the 25th of April. The Mayor, J. Martyn, Esq. stated that he had called the meeting in compliance with a requisition from six respectable persons, to consider the propriety of returning thanks to G. L. Wardle, Esq. for his late conduct in Parliament.

Mr. Alderman Russel, in a concise speech, proposed the resolutions and address, which was seconded by Mr. Clarkson, and unanimously agreed to. This address of the inhabitants of Guildford, for its brevity and force of expression, has scarcely been equalled. The following is a copy of the *same*:—

*" To G. L. Wardle, Esq. M.P.*

SIR,—We consider that no foreign conquest or efforts of genius so essential to the country as the honest exertions of independent Members of Parliament to expose, and endeavour to exterminate, corrupt practices.

" We revere our King and Constitution, and complain of no sacrifices that we are called upon for their security and support; but when such transactions as have lately been exposed are suffered to exist without notice, how truly thankful must every true and loyal Briton be that such an independent member as yourself stands forward as champion in the cause of truth.

" We most unfeignedly give you our cordial and grateful thanks, and most sincerely wish that you may for many years enjoy the heart-felt satisfaction of being instrumental to the happiness of your own countrymen.

J. MARTYN, Mayor."

## BOROUGH OF LEWES, SUSSEX.

This meeting was held at the Town Hall, on the 18th of April, in conformity to a requisition, signed by a great number of the inhabitants, Mr. Henry Rawson, senior, constable, in the chair.

The business of the day was opened in an appropriate speech, by Henry Jackson, Esq. who brought forward a number of resolutions, which were all approved of as far as they went.

The resolutions that passed on this occasion, besides thanking Mr. Wardle, Thomas Kemp, and Henry Shelley, Esqrs. the independent members for the Borough of Lewes, expressed nothing remarkable.

The first and second in order, passed unanimously, but on the third being put, Mr. Henry Blackman rose, and proposed an amendment, by adding the lines, following the word "lesson," which he ably supported in an animated, impressive, and comprehensive, speech of considerable length. Mr. Parker, a dissenting minister, spoke in favour of the amendment; and Mr. Jackson, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Hooper, and Dr. Blair, against it; after which it was put and carried, with the appearance of but few dissentient hands. Mr. Blackman then followed up his amendment, with the fourth resolution, as premised in his speech, which was in like manner objected to by the same gentlemen, who contended, that it was irrelevant to the business before the meeting, not being expressed or implied in the constable's notice, and consequently, in point of order, not open to discussion; but the question being now

called for, a division took place, when only about eight hands were held up in favour of the objection.

The fifth resolution was carried unanimously.

The next that was moved and seconded, after some prefatory observations, was the following :—

Resolved—“ That Thomas Kemp and Henry Shelley, Esqrs. by their conduct in Parliament, on the above trying and important occasion, have established their political independence, beyond the possibility of a doubt; and that they are in consequence entitled, not only to the thanks of this Borough, but also to its future elective support, free of any expence whatsoever; and the more especially as an admission of an expenditure on their parts would be incompatible with that freedom which the Borough professes, and feels determined to maintain.”

The above resolution was, from motives we are unable to discover, objected to, and, after much desultory conversation, reluctantly withdrawn.

The 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th Resolutions were carried unanimously, and without any observations that demand particular notice. The business of the day occupied about three hours.

## NORFOLK COUNTY MEETING

Was held at the Shire House, Norwich, on Tuesday, the 2d May. Stretton George Herbert, who (in the absence of the High Sheriff) was called to the chair, proposed the following resolutions, which were seconded by Thomas Beesor, Esq. and adopted without one dissentient voice:—

That the thanks of this meeting be given to G. L. Wardle, Esq. for the indefatigable zeal and disinterested patriotism he has evinced in detecting and bringing to light the gross and unparalleled corruption which has long existed in the office of the Commander-in-chief; and for the firm and temperate perseverance with which (in defiance of threats and difficulties) he carried on the late investigation in Parliament, to his own honour, and the advantage of his country.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to all those who cordially assisted Mr. Wardle in the arduous task he had undertaken; including T. W. Coke, Esq. who divided with the patriotic minority of 125, and Sir J. H. Astley, Bart. for his vote in favour of Sir T. Turton's amendment.

It was also resolved that the majority in the late divisions in Parliament, acquitting the Commander-in-chief of all personal corruption, and of all connivance at corruption, was in direct *opposition* to the sense of the people; and that the

necessity is thereby evinced, of adopting some effectual reform, in order that the voice of the representatives may become the voice of the people.

That it is the decided opinion of this meeting, that no substantial and permanent good can be derived by the country from any change of ministers, unless accompanied by an entire change of system; and that the most certain method of rendering parliamentary reform effectual is, to follow the laudable example of Westminster, by returning, free of expence, such representatives as are worthy of confidence; and by shortening the duration of parliaments, in order that a frequent appeal to the sense of the people may guide the conduct of our representatives, without increasing their expences.

That the gentlemen who signed the requisition to the High Sheriff for this meeting be requested to act as a committee for the application of the funds arising from the subscriptions; and that they be authorised to present the plate to Mr. Wardle, in any way, and with any inscription, they may deem explanatory of the intention of the donors.

The Rev. Mr. Crompton, the Rev. Dixon Hoste, Mr. Beevor, and J. Kerrich, Esq. of Harleston, spoke on the occasion, after the business had been opened by a long speech, from the Hon. G. Herbert, in the chair.

## NORFOLK COUNTY MEETING.

The freeholders afterwards dined at the different inns, and passed the day with the utmost conviviality. About sixty gentlemen dined at the Angel, where the Hon. Mr. Herbert presided, who distinguished himself at the head of a table by his polite attention and social talents, as he had done at the Shire-house by his patriotic and impressive eloquence.

The first toast after dinner was, "the King."

"The Constitution as it was, and as we hope it soon will be."

"The health of Mr. Wardle," with three times three.

"The truest friend of the Farmer, the truest friend of the Constitution, and the truest friend of the People—Thomas William Coke." This toast also was received with long continued plaudits, and drank with three times three.

Mr. H. Styleman then proposed "the health of the Chairman,"—to whose steady exertions and manly conduct the freeholders of Norfolk owed the success of that glorious day (drank with reiterated cheers).

Mr. Herbert, in returning thanks for that mark of approbation of his conduct which he had then received, observed that, to be coupled next in honour and political integrity with such a man as



Mr. Coke, afforded him the highest gratification, and he trusted that the sentiments which with his earliest education had been instilled into his mind, would never be eradicated, for they were founded on the basis of constitutional principles, which he should ever be proud to acknowledge.

The Hon. Chairman then proposed—

“ A speedy Reform in Parliament, conducted with temperance, moderation, and wisdom.”

“ Pure Elections and honest Representatives.”

“ The health of that man who can boast not only of having faced French armies and other foreign enemies, but who dared to vote against his Commander-in-chief, and to face the great enemy at home, Corruption—General Ferguson.” (Three times three.)

“ The health of another brave man, who has so often fought against the foes of England, and ever in defence of the people—Admiral Markham.” (Three times three.)

“ Navy and Army.”

“ Prosperity to the County of Norfolk—and may every county in the United Kingdom soon boast as honest a representative.”

General Hethersett then gave—“ Thanks to the Freeholders who signed the Requisition to the High Sheriff.”

At seven o'clock the chairman being under the necessity of taking his leave of the meeting,

Thomas Beevor, Esq. was called to the chair, when the following toasts were given :—

“ The Lord Bishop of the Diocese.” (Three times three.)

“ Purer Air to the Chelsea Pensioners.”

“ The virtuous 125 Members of Parliament who voted in favour of Colonel Wardle’s motion.”

“ Sir Francis Burdett.—Mr. Whitbread.—Ld. Folkstone.—That able and constitutional Lawyer, Sir Samuel Romilly.”

“ That zealous patriot, Mr. Waithman, and the independent Livery of London.” All with three times three.

“ The minority of 167 who voted in favour of Lord A. Hamilton’s motion against Lord Castle-reagh.”

“ Sir T. Turton.—Gen. Hethersett.—Major Cartwright.”

“ In this energetic country may merit ever meet its reward.”

Neither of the county members were at the meeting or dinner, nor were their healths conjunctively drank.

## NORWICH CITY MEETING.

A very numerous and respectable meeting of the inhabitants of this city being assembled in Common Hall, James Marsh, Esq. in the chair ;—

**Sigismund Trafford, Esq.** moved the following resolutions, which were seconded by **John Basely Took, Esq.** and passed unanimously :—

1st, That however honest and independent men may differ in certain political opinions, all honest and independent men must agree in the reprobation of political corruption.

2dly, That this meeting, having taken into their consideration the recent inquiry of the House of Commons into the conduct of the late Commander-in-chief, vote their warmest thanks to **Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq.** for the intrepidity and persevering zeal with which he stood forward the foe of corruption and the friend of his country.

3dly, That the gratitude and admiration of the whole empire are due to the man, who, neither awed by the menaces of one party, nor assured of support from the other, has, with consummate ability and admirable coolness, completed an investigation, which disclosed practices in the highest degree disgraceful to the perpetrators, and dangerous to the vital safety of the country.

4thly, That the hearty thanks of this meeting are due to the minority of 125 who divided in favour of Colonel Wardle's motion, and to the minority of 137 who supported the amendment proposed by Sir Thomas Turton, from a conviction that, out-numbered as they were by Place-holders

and Place-hunters, they yet spoke the genuine sentiments of the people at large.

5thly, That the thanks of this meeting are more especially due to Sir Francis Burdett, Bart. who seconded the motion for inquiry; to Lord Viscount Folkstone, for his firm and judicious support during the whole course of it; to Thomas William Coke, Esq. to Sir Samuel Romilly, Bart. Samuel Whitbread, Esq. Major General Ferguson, Sir Thomas Turton, Bart. the Hon. Thomas Brand, the Hon. W. H. Lyttleton, Lord Stanley, Lord Althorpe, and John Christian Curwen, Esq. for the assistance which they respectively gave in bringing to light the public abuses and the public culprits.

6thly, That in the opinion of this meeting facts have been disclosed which prove that corruption has long existed in many public offices; that in consequence the taxes and the burthens of the people have been unnecessarily increased, and that no permanent good can arise from the commencement of this great measure of inquiry into abuses, unless it be followed by a general reform.

It is worthy of note, that the Mayor, perhaps, copying some of his contemporaries, refused to call a Common Hall; but, the people assembling to the number of three thousand, Mr. Day did *not think proper* to keep the hall doors closed;

and J. Marsh, Esq. briefly stated the purport of the meeting. W. Smith, Esq. M. P. then spoke, in explanation of his conduct: he cordially joined the resolutions, and concluded by saying, that, however he and some of his constituents might differ as to the means of rooting out corruption, he was sure that they were all agreed as to the absolute necessity of opposing, and, if possible, annihilating it. Mr. Smith was heard with attention and applause. The resolutions were put and carried unanimously. Some persons attempted to interrupt the business of the meeting, but the people soon cleared the Hall of them, and the business proceeded without further interruption.

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### IPSWICH.

This place has been distinguished by strong opposition to the proposed vote of thanks to Mr. Wardle; and the ministerial party, in the first instance, prevailed so far, as to pass a string of resolutions, censuring not only those who meet to pass resolutions approbatory of Mr. W. and his supporters, but also of *all* who in any way oppose ministers; declaring their fullest confidence in their *wisdom, virtue, and integrity*. The Portmen, however, inserted an advertisement in their County Journal, justifying themselves for the ad-

laws of our country? are we to wink at corruptions; to countenance adultery; to support dissipation; to allow men to fill posts in the church, the army, and the state, for which they were never qualified? (*No, no.*) And, by the basest means, are those who are altogether unworthy of the friendship of moral men, to climb to honour, influence, and profit? What have we to expect from our armies, if those who command them are men who violate the sacred and civil laws; whose promotions are the effects of corruption; whose friends and patrons are the debauched and adulterous.

“Do we not live in a day when iniquity abounds and threatens the nation? and is it not then the duty of every Briton, who is in heart friendly to the King, the Constitution, and the Country, to venerate those who have so manfully undertaken, so steadily persevered, and successfully brought the business to a close? If the vote of thanks to Mr. Wardle and his assistants is negatived in this assembly, I shall be numbered with the men who sigh for all the abominations of the times.” (*Loud applause.*)

The Chairman then put the question of adjournment, for which only a few hands were held up. He then read the several resolutions, which were carried by large majorities.

It was therefore resolved, on the motion of Benjamin Benyon, Esq. seconded by John Beck, Esq.

That, in the opinion of this Meeting, the late investigation by the honourable the House of Commons into the conduct of His Royal Highness the Commander-in-chief, is a matter of infinite importance to the country, inasmuch as, by having brought to light an infamous system of trafficking in commissions, promotions, and appointments, carried on to an alarming extent, it has afforded an opportunity, and furnished a strong incitement, to the independent members of the House of Commons to exert themselves to defend the throne and people from the destructive effects of corruption in every department of the State.

That the most cordial thanks of this meeting be given to Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. for his intrepidity and patriotism in instituting the said investigation, and for his candour and perseverance in conducting the same to its termination, through all the discouragements and difficulties which he had to encounter.

And also to every other member of the House of Commons, who, either by active co-operation supported Mr. Wardle in his arduous undertaking, or who voted in any of the several minorities which divided against the defenders of the conduct of the Commander-in-chief.

LOXDALE, Town Clerk.

## STAFFORD.

The Meeting of this town was very numerous and respectable, and was held there on the 20th of April; M. J. Wright, Esq. Mayor, in the Chair.

W. Horton, Esq. observed, that it was unnecessary for him to enter at any length into the nature of the meeting. Every Englishman, who had suffered his mind to be fairly acted upon by the late memorable proceedings in Parliament, must be aware that Mr. Wardle had rendered a very important service to his country. Every man capable of appreciating the true principles of liberty, and the courage and public spirit by which they were preserved to the State, must be convinced that Mr. Wardle's conduct was precisely of that bold and marked nature which men in general would shrink from. In proportion therefore as he had deviated from the common track of equivocal and shuffling parliamentary patriotism, he was entitled to some distinguished mode of approbation. To this the country seemed to have unanimously agreed, wherever a powerful aristocracy did not stretch forth its arm to shield the delinquent from public censure. *He concluded by moving an address to Mr. Wardle.*



Mr. Somerville seconded the motion, and entered at considerable length into the merits of Mr. Wardle's conduct.

Mr. Drewry moved an adjournment of the meeting *sine die*, and talked of a licentious press: he thought Mr. Wardle had been already sufficiently rewarded. Mr. Drewry's motion was negatived without a division. Mr. Keen's amendment, also, for saying We, the Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council, &c. instead of We, the *Inhabitants*, was also lost, and the following Address and Resolutions, at length, passed unanimously:

*“ To Gwylim Lloyd Wardle, Esq.*

*“ We, the Inhabitants of the Borough of Stafford, have witnessed, with sentiments of admiration and gratitude, the firm but temperate manner in which you have prosecuted a long and laborious inquiry into the conduct of the late Commander-in-chief.*

*“ The victory which you have obtained over the abuses disclosed in that high official situation, is a noble instance of the self-renovating power of our glorious Constitution.*

*“ You have shewn, that any virtuous and independent member of the House of Commons, unconnected with party, but supported by the public voice, is enabled to promote the cause of truth, and the real interests of the nation.*

“Estimating your services, therefore, as the effects of an honest and courageous mind, we offer to you our ardent thanks, as a part of that community which you have so eminently benefited.”

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### DERBY.

A Meeting was held at the Town-Hall, on the 18th of April, convened pursuant to a requisition; H. Brown, Esq. Mayor, in the chair ; when the following resolutions were almost unanimously adopted, viz ;—

That this Meeting, actuated by the purest motives, is desirous of expressing to Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. its grateful thanks for the firm and independent manner in which, unconnected with party, he instituted, and the temper and perseverance which he displayed in the prosecution of the late arduous inquiry into the conduct of His Royal Highness the Duke of York.

That this meeting, believing that gross abuses and shameful corruption have been fully proved to exist in various departments of the State, and in the general administration of Public Affairs, is thoroughly convinced of the necessity of timely and temperate, but strict and effectual, inquiry and correction.

That after the distinguished proof which has been given by Mr. Wardle, of what, under the

forms of our excellent Constitution, may be accomplished by the honest exertions of an individual member of the House of Commons, this meeting trusts that the fatal consequences to which such corruption and abuses must inevitably lead, will be averted by the united efforts of all good men, and of such representatives of the people in particular, as, with abilities equal to the task, shall have the courage, probity, and independence to step forward on an occasion so pregnant with honour to themselves, and safety to their country.

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## WORCESTER.

This was a meeting of the freemen and inhabitants in Common Hall assembled, and took place on Thursday, April 12, in compliance with a public requisition. The thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Wardle, for "his dauntless intrepidity in proposing the recent investigation in the House of Commons, which disclosed the existence of gross abuses and corruptions in the conduct of the Commander-in-chief of His Majesty's land forces, and other departments of the State." Thanks were at the same time voted to W. Gordon and A. Robarts, Esqrs. members for Worcester; the Hon. W. H. Lyttleton, member for the county; the Hon. A. Foley and Sir T.

the additional approbation and confidence of their constituents.

Resolved, That this meeting consider the conduct of the present administration, relative to the late inquiry respecting His Royal Highness the Duke of York, derogatory to their official duty, and renders them altogether undeserving that great trust with which they are invested.

With the friends of Mr. Wardle, the Mayor, also, received the thanks of the meeting.

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## WARWICK.

The meeting of the Burgesses and inhabitants of this place was on Tuesday, May 16, at the Court House ; Thomas Collins, Esq. Mayor, in the chair.

Their resolutions, besides thanking Mr. Wardle, and the 125 upright members, expressed—

That the late decision of the House of Commons, standing in direct opposition to the clear and decided opinion, and offering the grossest violence to all the best feelings of the nation, exhibits a most striking and melancholy proof of the present imperfect representation of the people in parliament.

That, in the opinion of this meeting, a timely, temperate, and well-conducted, Plan of Parliamentary reform can alone afford an effectual se-

curity against all great and dangerous abuses in the various departments of government ; and that, by restoring to the House of Commons its constitutional and rightful character of being a fair and faithful representation of the people, such reform would render that body amiable and venerable in the estimation of their constituents—would contribute essentially to the happiness and true glory of the Sovereign—would give their due weight to property, talent, and virtue in the Senate—and promote the collective interest of a free, enlightened, and generous nation.

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### HUNTINGDON.

The freeholders of this county met at the Shire Hall, on Friday, May 6, under circumstances of some novelty, it being the first which has there assembled since the days of Sir Robert Bernard, without the previous approbation, and not under the immediate auspices, of one or other of the Noble Families which are supposed to divide the guidance of the county. Without consulting either, a number of respectable land-owners signed a requisition, to which the Sheriff, of course, acceded, desiring a meeting to be convened, for the purpose of paying a tribute of gratitude to Mr. Wardle.

The resolutions intended to be proposed were drawn up by G.W. Leeds, Esq. of Croxton Hall; the task of moving them was assigned to J. E. Hovendon, Esq. and they were to have been seconded by Dr. Maltby; Mr. Leeds keeping back as a corps de reserve, to repel any attacks not foreseen.

The object of the resolutions was probably misunderstood, as all the forces of the house of a Noble Lord were drawn up in array against them, headed by his Lordship, supported by W. H. Fellowes, Esq. and protected on each flank by Counsellors Swan and Torkington.

Fortunately, however, just before the hour of active hostility was about to begin, mutual proposals of accommodation were exchanged; and the leading friends of the original resolutions, on one part, with his Lordship, Mr. Fellowes, and the Counsel learned in law, on the other, retired to a private room, when the following compromise took place, viz. That the two first Resolutions should stand, and should also be seconded by Mr. Fellowes, provided the third, which conveyed an indirect censure on himself, was replaced by another of more general tendency. This candid concession was met by equal frankness; the resolutions, thus modified, went first to state, "the benefit likely to arise from the recent inquiry into the conduct of the late Commander-in-chief, by

exciting the Hon. House of Commons to investigate and correct abuses in every department of the State; 2dly, to thank Mr. Wardle for his courage, perseverance, and candour; and, 3dly, to approve the steps now in contemplation of Parliament for the prevention of abuses, and urging it to the completion of the important work."

After this arrangement, Mr. Leeds, instead of the more arduous task of watching and refuting misrepresentation, in a short manly speech, proposed, and Mr. Fellowes seconded, the resolutions; the latter gentleman thus giving a pledge, which he will doubtless redeem, that in checking the progress of corruption his future aid shall not be wanting.

All parties seemed pleased at the termination of the business: the friends of the resolutions gained every thing which was material, in the acknowledgment of the principle for which they contended, and the peace of the county was undisturbed.

The result of the day evinced, that, besides the thick and thin supporters or opponents of any particular party, there exists in this county another class of men, who equally despise party and faction; who desire to support the establishment, without sacrificing principle; who advocate no visionary scheme of theoretical perfection; but who wish the Constitution to be administered in

its purity ; and who are sufficiently numerous to give weight to their wishes. Their views appear to be so moderate, and their resolutions, which follow, are framed so temperately, that it is to be hoped their example may be universally followed :—

Resolved unanimously, That it is the opinion of this meeting that the late investigation, by the Honourable House of Commons, into the conduct of the late Commander-in-chief, is a matter of infinite importance to this country, inasmuch as it has furnished a strong incitement to that Honourable House to exert themselves to defend the throne and the people from the destructive effects of corruption in every department of the state.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. for his courage, candour, and perseverance, in conducting the said investigation.

That this meeting have seen with much satisfaction the steps taken by the wisdom of parliament for the suppression of any abuses that may exist in the state, and hope and trust they will continue their exertions until the same shall be effectually reformed.

JOHN HEATHCOTE, Sheriff.



## BEDFORD.

On Monday, April 3, a Common Hall was convened by the Mayor of Bedford, in compliance with a requisition, signed by Mr. Belsham (the historian), Mr. Green, Dr. Yeats, Alderman Cooke, Pleasant, Kidman, Barnard, &c. when the thanks of the Corporation, together with the Freedom of the Town, were voted to G. L. Wardle, Esq. "for the purity of the motives which induced him to lay before the House of Commons his late statement of the Duke of York's misconduct, in disposing of the patronage of the army; and for the undaunted zeal, consummate ability, and unwearied perseverance, with which he pursued an investigation so worthy of an independent Member of Parliament, and so deeply interesting to every Briton." Thanks were also voted to Mr. Whitbread and Mr. Lee Antonie, Members for the town, for having supported Mr. Wardle. The resolutions were unanimously agreed to; indeed, there was not a shadow of opposition evinced by any individual at the meeting.

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 OXFORD.

The freemen of Oxford experienced considerable opposition to their wishes, to distinguish Mr.

tions, in instituting and conducting the charges against the late Commander-in-chief.

2d. To Sir Francis Burdett, Bart. for having seconded the motion of Mr. Wardle.

3d. To Lord Viscount Althorp, one of the representatives of this county, for his public-spirited conduct, during the late investigation; and particularly for the constitutional speech with which he prefaced his amendment to Mr. Bragge Bathurst's motion.

4th. To the 125 independent Members who divided in favour of Mr. Wardle's motion, for an Address to the King, on the subject of the late Inquiry.

5th. (*with only six dissentients*), That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the gross and scandalous abuses that have been recently exposed and detected, call loudly for constitutional redress and correction, as the only means left to convince the people, that the heavy sacrifices they are called upon to make are not perverted to base and improper purposes.

MICHAEL SMITH, Chairman.

### CHIPPING WYCOMBE, BUCKS.

A Court of Common Council, held at the Guildhall of this Borough, April 22d, 1809,  
Samuel Anning, Esq. Mayor :

Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of this meeting be transmitted to Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. for his patriotic conduct in bringing forward and steadily persevering in an inquiry relative to certain abuses which appear to have existed in military promotions tending to the degradation of the Army.

That G. L. Wardle, Esq. be elected a Burgess of this ancient Corporation.

That the thanks of this meeting be presented to Sir John Dashwood King, Bart. and Thomas Baring, Esq. the worthy representatives of this Borough in Parliament, for their independent conduct on the late investigation.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to Sir Samuel Romilly, Knt. one of the burgesses of this Borough, for his able defence of our constitutional rights on the late important question.

JOHN NASH, jun. Deputy Town Clerk.

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## HERTFORD.

By the decisions of this County Meeting, held there on the 13th of May, it appears, that exclusively of thanking Mr. Wardle, and his friends, the meeting, like that of Worcester, &c. had the additional pleasure of including their own mem-

bers. It was therefore resolved, with a little ineffectual opposition from Mr. Baker,

That the Hon. Thomas Brand and Sir John Saunders Sebright, Bart. the representatives in Parliament for this County, by the disposition they have manifested to enquire into and check abuses and corruption, by the support they uniformly gave to the appointment of an efficient Finance Committee, and particularly by the active support they gave to Mr. Wardle's motion, and to the rendering effective the inquiry, have in a high degree merited the approbation and confidence of their constituents; and that it is the earnest hope of this meeting that they will persevere in enquiring into every abuse till the public confidence in the administration of national affairs is fully restored.

That the thanks of this meeting be also given to Nicolson Calvert, Esq. Daniel Giles, Esq. and to the Hon. William Lamb, members residing in this county, and to all those other members of the House of Commons who composed the numerous, respectable, and eventually successful, minorities.

That the increasing influence of the Crown is an evil progressively undermining the constitutional rights of the people, and that the late prodigious and rapid increase of our national debt, with that of our military and colonial establishment, have created an influence, the force of

which, acting upon a great body of electors, has driven the liberties of this country from the firm basis of popular representation to a dependence upon the moderation and forbearance of the Crown.

That although it is the duty of the great Officers of the Crown to bring to light the delinquency and abuses in office, yet we have seen, with extreme regret, the members of Administration exerting their influence to screen delinquency, and prevent the discovery of mal-practices in several recent instances; and while we earnestly deprecate all unconstitutional attempts at reformation out of the House of Commons, we think it necessary to express our earnest hope, that the independent and patriotic members of that honourable House will exert themselves in obtaining that reform, as also in discovering and prosecuting all corrupt abuses in every department of the state, and in applying such constitutional checks as may secure the people against a recurrence of the same.

That this meeting has perceived with regret, that the majorities of the House of Commons upon this and some other recent occasions, have differed so essentially from the sense of the people, thereby affording them a convincing proof that a reform in the representation of the people is indispensably

necessary to the expression of the public sentiments.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to William Plumer, Esq. one of our late worthy independent representatives, who signed the requisition and brought forward the resolutions, as the steady friend of reform and enemy to corruption, and for his patriotic and disinterested conduct on all occasions, in support of the independence of this county, and the general rights and liberties of the people.

Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of this meeting be given to the High Sheriff, for his readiness to convene the present meeting, and his honourable, fair, and impartial, conduct in the chair, &c. &c.

By order of the Meeting,

EDMUND DARBY, Sheriff.

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## NOTTINGHAM.

At a Common Hall, held at Nottingham, the Freedom of that town was voted to Mr. Wardle; and a few days after, at a meeting of the inhabitants, a series of Resolutions were agreed to, approving of the late Inquiry into Public Abuses, and returning thanks to Mr. Wardle, and his principal supporters in the House of Commons.

The resolutions were then carried unanimously ; except one, which was negatived, of thanks to Daniel Parker Coke, Esq. one of the representatives, and in the minority on the Chancellor of the Exchequer's motion, on the ground of his not having done his duty *manfully and consistently*.

Mr. Wakefield brought forward the resolutions on this occasion.

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### RADFORD,

In the same County, passed similar resolutions with those of Nottingham, and also voted thanks to Mr. Wardle, and his friends in Parliament.

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### PLYMOUTH.

The Meeting of this Borough was held on the 24th of April, at the Guildhall ; the Worshipful the Mayor in the chair.

Resolved, That circumstances of public notoriety place beyond all doubt the long existence of nefarious and scandalous abuses in various branches of the government of the country, and that minute investigation is absolutely necessary into several Public Departments.

That Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. has faithfully discharged the duties of a conscientious member of Parliament, and is eminently entitled

to the approbation and thanks of the inhabitants of this town, for the firm and manly manner and distinguished abilities evinced by him on the inquiry into the conduct of the late Commander-in-chief of the Army; and also that great praise is due to all those who supported him in his arduous and difficult undertaking.

That the inhabitants of this town regret that a much greater number of independent and unbiased members were not to be found in the House of Commons anxious to promote such measures as might tend to annihilate corruption, which, if not corrected, must endanger the welfare of our inestimable and happy Constitution.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to John Arthur, Esq. for bringing forward the above resolutions; and also to William Langmead, Mayor and Chairman.

## CORNWALL COUNTY MEETING.

On Monday, the 15th of May, a meeting of the Freeholders, &c. of the county of Cornwall, was held at the County Hall, Bodmin. About two hundred persons attended the meeting. Resolutions were proposed, thanking Mr. Wardle for having made the charges against the Duke of York; also thanking the minority who sup-



ported Mr. Wardle; and the county Members, and others, who voted for the several amendments; and censure was proposed on the majority who acquitted the Duke. It was also moved to resolve, that abuses existed in several departments of the state, and that the only remedy for them was a reform in Parliament. These resolutions were moved by Mr. Edward Stackhouse, and seconded by Mr. Edmond Rashleigh. They were supported by Mr. Glynn, and the Rev. Mr. Walker. No objection was made to the resolutions thanking Mr. Wardle, but the other resolutions were strongly opposed by Lords Elliott and De Dunstanville, and Messrs. Davies, Giddy, Gregor, and Glanville. After a debate of about four hours, the Under-Sheriff, who presided, declared, on a shew of hands, that all the resolutions were carried. The majority was probably about two to one; but there is great reason to believe, that a considerable number of persons who are not freeholders attended the meeting in favour of the resolutions; and it is certain, that many of the most respectable gentlemen of the county were prevented from attending, by a report very industriously circulated some days previous to the meeting, that nothing would be proposed but thanks to Mr. Wardle. A protest was immediately signed by between 50 and 60 persons, against the resolutions recommending a reform in Parlia-

liamentary investigation of the charges magnanimously and public-spiritedly preferred by G. L. Wardle, Esq. against the late Commander-in-chief."

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## POOL.

The inhabitants of this county held a meeting, pursuant to public notice, at the Town Hall, on the 21st of April, 1809; Thomas Parr, in the chair; when it was Resolved,

That the exposure of many transactions in the several departments of the state, and the conduct of many persons connected therewith, are so many melancholy proofs that the Constitution of the country has been endangered by gross and scandalous corruption.

That it is the indispensable duty of every member of the House of Commons to guard with a watchful eye the expenditure of the public money, and, as the faithful guardian of the people's rights, to exert every endeavour for the detecting and bringing to condign punishment the agents of corruption, in every department of the state.

That it is to the tried patriotism and undaunted zeal of Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. that the country is indebted for the exposure of many flagrant abuses in the military department, and to his unexampled courage and perseverance (as

sisted by the virtuous and independent Members of the House of Commons) we look with confidence to the completion of the great work of reformation. Deeply impressed with these sentiments, we cannot but consider Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. entitled not only to our warmest thanks, but also to the gratitude of his country.

And that the thanks of this meeting be given to Benjamin Lester Lester, Esq. the worthy representative of this town and county, to the member for the county of Dorset, and to all other the Members of the House of Commons who voted in the different minorities on the late important questions.

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### SHAFTSBURY.

The inhabitants of this place had a meeting in the County Hall, on the 19th of April, 1809, the Rev. Richard Blackmore in the chair; when it was Resolved,

That the recent inquiry before the House of Commons into the alledged abuses relating to military promotions, has indisputably proved their existence to a most alarming degree, equally tending to the degradation of the army, to subvert its best and dearest interests, and to sap the foundation of government itself.

That we feel peculiarly indebted to Gwyllint Lloyd Wardle, Esq. for his patriotism and manliness in instituting this inquiry, and for his inflexible firmness in its prosecution, which have justly intitled him to the gratitude of the United Kingdom.

That His Royal Highness the Duke of York, by resigning his situation of Commander-in-chief, has acted in conformity with the wishes of the people, in opposition to the majority of the House of Commons; that if any person, at any future period, should advise His Majesty to reinstate him, he will, by such advice, prove himself an enemy to his country.

That the late decision of the House of Commons has disappointed the hopes and expectations of the public, and convinces us of the necessity of a speedy and effectual reform in the representation of the Commons in Parliament, as a security to the throne, a support to the nobility, and a safeguard to the people.

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## SOUTHAMPTON

Was not backward in following the example of its neighbours. On Saturday, May 6, a meeting was held at the Guildhall, to return thanks to Mr. Wardle, for his patriotic conduct in bringing forward the charges against the Duke of York.—Mr. Pitt, surveyor, opened the meeting with a prefaced speech to some resolutions, when Mr. Nicholls proposed a strong and spirited amendment, which was carried unanimously. J. Atherley, Jun. Esq. late member, after apologizing for not being an immediate inhabitant, made a most eloquent address to the meeting, declaratory of his full approbation of the resolutions, and the necessity of a speedy Reform in Parliament, which measure he would stake his life to support. Sir Yelverton, the chairman, supported his situation with a dignity becoming his high station, and received the universal plaudits of the meeting.

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DONCASTER.

This meeting was held on the 3d of May, at the Town Hall there. The Mayor, Thomas Wrightson, Esq. in the chair:—

Besides voting thanks to Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq., Sir Francis Burdett, Admiral Markham, Lord Althorp, William Wrightson, Esq. of Casworth, the two Members of the County, William Wilberforce, Esq. and Lord Viscount Milton, it was Resolved,

That this meeting, anxious to preserve unimpaired the purity and blessings of that excellent form of government, which our ancestors have transmitted to us, and ardently wishing to see all the constituted authorities preserved and revered in the due exercise of their respective functions, feels it to be an indispensable duty, at this eventful moment, when all the nations that surround us have paid the forfeit of their corruption in the annihilation of their government, to call for a strict, a temperate, but an effectual, inquiry into every species of public abuse, and to express a hope that hereafter, on similar occasions, the sense of the House of Commons may appear to be less at variance with the sense of the nation; and that a larger body of the representatives of the people may be found to defend the constitution, by correcting public abuses, so effectually as to secure to the country the honest application and economical expenditure of public money.

## KINGSTON UPON HULL.

This meeting was held on Wednesday, April 19, Andrew Hollingworth, Esq. Mayor, in the chair ; when it was resolved unanimously :—

That it is the duty of this meeting to express their detestation of the corrupt practices proved to exist in the military administration of the country, and in various other departments of government.

That Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. by his intrepidity in preferring charges of corruption against His Royal Highness the late Commander-in-chief, and by his ability and perseverance in establishing the same, is eminently entitled to the thanks of this meeting, and to the everlasting gratitude of his country.

That the thanks of this meeting are also due to Lord Viscount Mahon and John Stanniforth, Esq. our representatives in Parliament, to Thomas Thompson, Esq. our fellow townsman, and to Lord Viscount Milton, and William Wilberforce, Esq. the Representatives for the County of York, together with the rest of the independent minority, for their votes and exertions on this occasion.

That this meeting, seeing the shameful venality that prevails in the different departments of the

Besides voting thanks to Gwyllim Lloyd W dle, Esq., Sir Francis Burdett, Admiral Maham, Lord Althorp, William Wrightson, I of Casworth, the two Members of the Court William Wilberforce, Esq. and Lord Viscount Milton, it was Resolved,

That this meeting, anxious to preserve unpaired the purity and blessings of that excellent form of government, which our ancestors have transmitted to us, and ardently wishing to see the constituted authorities preserved and rendered in the due exercise of their respective functions, feels it to be an indispensable duty at this eventful moment, when all the nations surround us have paid the forfeit of their constitution in the annihilation of their government call for a strict, a temperate, but an effectual inquiry into every species of public abuse, and express a hope that hereafter, on similar occasions, the sense of the House of Commons will appear to be less at variance with the sense of the nation; and that a larger body of the representatives of the people may be found to defend the constitution, by correcting public abuses, so perfectly as to secure to the country the best application and economical expenditure of public money.



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That this meeting, seeing the shameful venality that prevails in the different departments of the

state, and also, as has been recently evinced, in the disposal of East-India patronage, feels it a duty to state their conviction of the necessity of a complete change of public measures, of the abolition of reversionary grants, and unmerited pensions, and sinecure places, and of the restoration of the purity of parliament, according to the genuine principles of the Constitution.

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### BEVERLEY

Meeting was held in the Guildhall, on Wednesday, May 3; Richard Fox, Esq. Mayor, in the chair:—

It was Resolved unanimously, That this meeting, deeply deploring the too evident existence of abuses and other practices of evil tendency in various branches of public affairs, do highly approve of the firm and independent spirit evinced by Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. in instituting and steadily prosecuting the inquiry into the conduct of the late Commander-in chief, and that by his patriotic exertions he is deservedly entitled to, and has, the thanks and gratitude of this meeting.

That the thanks of this meeting be presented to John Wharton, Esq. one of the representatives of this Borough, for his support upon the said inquiry;

and to William Wilberforce, Esq. and Lord Viscount Milton, the members for this county, together with the independent minority, for their votes and exertions on that occasion.

R. Fox, Mayor.

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### SHEFFIELD MEETING

Was held at the Cutlers' Hall, on the 11th of April, and adjourned from thence to Paradise Square on the following day. Upwards of 6000 persons attended the meeting. Mr. E. Rhodes was in the chair.

Mr. Thurgar moved the resolution in favour of Mr. Wardle, and concluded a very ingenious and argumentative speech in nearly these words:

“ I think no person can doubt, that the intentions of Colonel Wardle were upright and honest; that he brought them forward from an anxious desire to do his duty to his constituents, and to serve his country. If ever there was a circumstance, which more than another entitled an individual to the thanks of his fellow-subjects, that circumstance was the one alluded to in the resolutions, and that individual was Colonel Wardle: under that impression, I give my most hearty assent to the resolution.”

Mr. Thomas Rawson warmly supported the resolution.

A separate resolution, thanking Lord Milton and Mr. Wilberforce, was then voted.

Upon moving a vote of censure upon ministers and their adherents, the Rev. Rich. Lacy, a magistrate for the county, made the following spirited observations: "This inquiry has not only exposed the corrupt connivance of a Royal Duke, but it has clearly evinced to the world the corruption of Ministers.—Look, gentlemen, to the majority who voted in defence of the innocence of the Royal Commander, and you will behold a band of soldiers, placemen, and pensioners. With unblushing effrontery those guardians of our privileges have disclaimed all attention to the popular voice. If the voice of the people, which from the days of Mr. Pitt dare scarcely be heard above a gentle whisper, is not to be attended to, of what use is Magna Charta? Of what utility are our elective franchises? Of what service is our House of Representatives? The late change of ministry, gentlemen, is no doubt fully in the recollection of you all. How stood then the popular cry with these *patriotic* hypocrites, when, "Down with Popery" was the order of the day? But now, when down with corruption is the cry, the ministerial myrmidons scorn to be braved into political virtue, though it is the voice of the people. The great may be compared to edifices erected on the summit of a

hill, and consequently seen from afar; they are as flaming torches, whose splendour exposes and betrays them to public view; they are as public pageants, on which every eye is fixed; their manners form the manners of the people; their examples are the rules of the multitude; for we well know it is human nature to copy those above us. Under this infatuating spell, the city forms its manners from the court—the town soon adopts the pernicious excesses of the city—the humble village quickly inhales the pestilential contagion, and the cottager, who would otherwise have been, if not an ornamental, at least an inoffensive, member of society, is brought by bad example before his country's tribunal, convicted and condemned for crimes, of which, under a more palliating name, his superior is pronounced innocent.

“Such, gentlemen, were the sentiments which flashed on my mind, on hearing an observation made by one of my parishioners to another. It was about the period when rumour was extremely busy with reports, that Parliament, instead of censuring, intended to thank the Duke of York for his late conduct. But I must first premise, that when the ignorant get hold of a tale of this nature, they seldom take the trouble to inquire for what the thanks are due. ‘Well, neighbour, what I have often told you is at length proved to be true? Religion is merely a bugbear to frighten

us who are poor, and to keep us in order. The great you see are too wise to mind it, for our Parliament are going to thank the Duke of York for his late conduct, though he lives with a bad woman, instead of his wife.' It is to counteract opinions such as these, gentlemen, that I call upon you, upon the County of York, nay, upon the empire at large, to send deputies from every part of it, to thank the only man, who for a long series of years has individually and boldly stepped forward, and dared to be honest to his country in the very worst of times. Let but our House of Representatives copy his example, trace corruption to its source, and banish the poisonous reptile from its walls; we then will dare the tyrant of France to land upon our shores, for Englishmen united, virtuous, and free, may, and will, dare the whole world in arms."

Mr. Lacy concluded a very eloquent and impressive speech in the following words :

"I must, gentlemen, acknowledge the pride I feel in having lately had the happy lot of becoming a resident in this county, and in having a right to claim your permission, as one of your magistrates, to have the honour of adding my name to yours, in a vote of thanks to a Milton and a Wilberforce. To men, who are not only public ornaments, but domestic examples; who not only religiously observe the Christian law, but zealously defend

their country's law; who dare to check the torrent of corruption, though flowing from a Royal source, and scorn to take away the freedom of an Englishman, that first, that choicest gift of Heaven."

It was resolved unanimously, That, ardently as we wish to promote the welfare and prosperity of our country, and warmly attached as we are to its true Constitutional Government, we cannot but deeply lament, that such shameful instances of corruption, such undue influence, and such unwarrantable practices, should ever have existed, as have been developed by the late proceedings of the House of Commons.

That Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. by instituting the inquiry, which has brought this scene of corruption before the judgment of the public, has deserved eminently well of his country, and that the thanks of this meeting, with feelings of respectful gratitude, be presented to him for the manly, firm, and independent manner in which, amidst great discouragements, undaunted by threats of infamy and heavy responsibility, equally unconnected with, and unsupported by party, he has conducted this important and patriotic inquiry.

That the particular thanks of this meeting be given to William Wilberforce, Esq. and the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Milton, the two

representatives of this extensive and populous county.

That we thus openly express our sentiments, conceiving it to be the duty of a free people, when strongly urged by transactions which materially affect the essential interests of the whole community, to declare their opinions, unbiassed by party-consideration, in order that independent men may be thereby encouraged steadily to pursue those just, rational, and constitutional measures which eventually root out every species of corruption, and prevent the repetition of similar evil practices, and which will also prove an effectual security against a profuse and unnecessary expenditure of public money.

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### LIVERPOOL.

The meeting of the Friends of Constitutional Reform, and Enemies of Political Corruption, was held at the Globe Tavern, Liverpool, April 21, 1809; George Williams, Esq. in the chair.

It was resolved, That the grateful thanks of this meeting are due to Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. for the undaunted, firm, and patriotic manner in which he brought forward and prosecuted the late inquiry into the conduct of His Royal Highness the Duke of York; a measure which has not only occasioned the removal of His Royal Highness



from office, but, by having opened the eyes of the country to the conduct of their representatives, is likely to be productive of the happiest and most important consequences to the nation at large.

That the practice of persons holding offices, or enjoying pensions under the Crown, and having at the same time a seat in the Commons' House of Parliament, as representatives of the people, although it has been guarded against by our ancestors with peculiar jealousy, has now arisen to an alarming excess ; and that it has become highly expedient to resort to those methods for remedying the evil which have formerly been adopted by the legislature of this country, and to use our endeavours to obtain the entire exclusion of placemen and pensioners from the House of Commons.

That the sending of members to Parliament, by places where the population is so far diminished as to render them liable to corrupt practices and undue influence, whilst other towns and places, of great importance and considerable population, do not enjoy such right, is inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution, and is a defect introduced by inattention and lapse of time, which ought to be speedily and effectually remedied.

That a letter be written to Mr. Wardle, testifying the deep sense which this meeting entertains of his great and meritorious services, and that the same be signed by the persons now present, and

be left for the signature of such other inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Liverpool as may think proper to subscribe the same.

That the thanks of this meeting are also due to Sir Francis Burdett, Bart. Lord Folkstone, Samuel Whitbread, Esq. ; to Lord Stanley, Sir Samuel Romilly, General Ferguson, T. W. Coke, Esq. J. C. Curwen, Esq. and the other members of the House of Commons ; and to William Roscoe, Esq. for proposing the address to G. L. Wardle, Esq. and the above resolutions, which have been unanimously adopted by this meeting.

That this meeting views with great regret and just indignation the refusal of the Mayor to call a meeting of the inhabitants to take into consideration those public proceedings in which the best interests and most valued rights of their country were deeply involved, and that it is the opinion of this meeting that the inhabitants be convened to exercise those privileges which are secured to them by the laws of their country, without any further application to the Mayor.

GEORGE WILLIAMS, Chairman.

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## MANCHESTER.

On the 3d of May, the Meeting, convened for the purpose of thanking Col. Wardle, at Man-

chester, was very numerously attended. After the business of the meeting was opened, it was concluded in half an hour. The fears and objections of the counter-revolutionists, none of whom made their appearance, were thus practically and completely proved to have been groundless. When the resolution thanking Col. Wardle was proposed, the people gave three cheers, and this again at the conclusion of the meeting. Such a disposition manifested in a town but a very short time before of such a different disposition, was a kind of triumph little expected.

This meeting was held at the Bull's Head Inn, in Manchester, when the following resolutions were passed unanimously ; Robert Phillips, Esq. in the chair :—

That the gross and corrupt practices which have been proved to exist in various departments of the state have excited in us the deepest regret, and we feel that G. L. Wardle, Esq. M.P. by the manly, temperate, and impartial manner in which he brought forward his charges against the late Commander-in-chief, and by the zeal, firmness, and intrepidity, with which he prosecuted the inquiry, has faithfully discharged his duty to his country, and does in a high degree merit the thanks of this meeting.

That the thanks of this meeting are also due to those members of the House of Commons who so

honourably supported Col. Wardle during the late arduous and important investigation.

ROBERT PHILLIPS, Chairman.

The Chairman having left the chair, it was taken by Ottiwell Wood, Esq.

OTTIWELL WOOD.

## GREAT AND LITTLE BOLTON, LANCA SHIRE.

The General Meeting of the Inhabitants of these two towns and neighbourhoods took place at the Sessions-Room, in Great Bolton, on Saturday May 27; Mr. William Bowker in the chair. Among other resolutions, thanking Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. Sir Francis Burdett, Lord Folstone, General Ferguson, and the rest of the 121 members, the fifth resolution expressed, That while we regret the very inadequate manner in which this county is represented, we observe, with the most lively pleasure, the names of Lord Stanley and Samuel Horrocks, Esq. members for the borough of Preston, in that virtuous minority.

## HUDDERSFIELD MEETING.

The Inhabitants of this town, and its vicinity having met on Tuesday, May 30, to take into

their consideration the propriety of thanking Mr. Wardle, Joseph Ingham, Esq. in the chair ; a number of spirited resolutions were passed unanimously, censuring the conduct of ministers, for endeavouring to screen and protect abuses of public trust; and expressing the necessity of a Reform in Parliament, by excluding Placemen and Pensioners, thus securing an adequate and independent representation as the only efficient measure that can be adopted.

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### HEREFORD COUNTY MEETING,

Consisting of a number of the freeholders, was convened in the Shire Hall, on Friday, May 19, by the gentlemen, whose *requisition* for that purpose had been declined by the High Sheriff. The Right Hon. the Earl of Oxford being in the chair. The thanks of the meeting to Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle and the 125 members were voted unanimously, for the zeal, courage, and patriotism with which (regardless of the threats of men in power) he persevered in bringing to light the corrupt practices in the office of Commander-in-chief. It was also resolved,

That it was with pleasure and gratitude the meeting observed the names of Thomas Foley, Thomas Powel Symonds, Richard Philip Scuda-

more, Esqs. in the honourable list that voted with Mr. Wardle.

That the heavy pressure of public taxes, (which have even reached the necessities of life,) renders it of the utmost importance, that faithful representatives should watch with jealousy the expenditure of the public revenue.

That, if pensions and lucrative places, represented to amount to 178,994*l.* per annum, continue to be given to 78 members of the House of Commons, it is vain for the people to expect their opinions there to be respected, &c. &c.

The chairman was requested to inform the members for Herefordshire, that the freeholders, then assembled, expect them to support any motion having for its object a reform in Parliament.

The thanks of the meeting were unanimously voted to the Earl of Oxford, for his able conduct in the chair.

## THE BRISTOL MEETING

Was convened at the Guildhall of that city on the 26th of May. William Coates, Esq. in the chair.

It was resolved, That at this momentous period, when the people are testifying the high sense they entertain of their superior rights as Britons, by

the *sacrifices* they daily make of *the necessities of life* for the maintenance and defence of the state, they have an undoubted right to insist that those, who are entrusted with the administration of the public affairs, should at least abstain from undisguised profligacy and notorious corruption.

That Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. in his parliamentary exertions, respecting the conduct of His Royal Highness the late Commander-in-chief, displayed that zealous vigilance for the public welfare, that clear discernment, that pure disinterestedness, that unextinguishable ardour, and that unshaken constancy, which characterizes the true patriot. That he has thereby justly acquired the admiration and gratitude of every uncorrupted member of the community, and is therefore requested to accept the heart-felt acknowledgment from the citizens of Bristol now assembled. That our thanks are due to Sir Francis Burdett, &c. That during the late inquiry, the influence of public opinion was unblushingly contemned, and its legitimacy openly denied, &c.

That we consider the late happy detection of Lord Castlereagh, in his foul attempt on the Constitution, as a pledge on the part of the virtuous representatives of the people, that they will not slumber at their posts, until our formidable enemy, corruption, be completely subdued, &c.

That we seek no other reform, than that which shall insure to us the restoration of that free and glorious Constitution, which our forefathers so bravely acquired, manfully asserted, and so religiously transmitted to their posterity, as their best, their inalienable birthright, &c. &c.

The thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. John Winter, jun. the Sheriff, and the other independent citizens, at whose instance it was convened.

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### RADNORSHIRE.

This Meeting of the gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders, of the county was held at Presteigne, on the 26th of April; John Whitaker, Esq. High Sheriff, in the chair. It was then unanimously Resolved,

That the thanks of this meeting be given to Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, Esq. for his independent and intrepid exertions, in promoting the investigation into the conduct of the late Commander-in-chief of his Majesty's forces.

That while we acknowledge with gratitude our Sovereign's paternal regard to his subjects, and his patriotic endeavours to amend the situation, and to lighten the burdens of his people; it is our opinion that it is only by the perseverance and temperate firmness of such men as Colonel Wardle that a due and speedy effect can be given to His Majesty's benevolent intentions.



That the Sheriff be requested to sign these resolutions in the name of the meeting.

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### MONMOUTH MEETING

Was held at the Town Hall, at Usk, on the 28th of April ; when, besides the resolutions passed for thanking Mr. Wardle, Henry Banks, Esq. and the rest of the minorities, it was Resolved,

That it is the opinion of this Meeting a very considerable number of Placemen and Pensioners, who have seats in Parliament, are under the influence of government, and that a temperate Reform in Parliament is therefore necessary ; and that it is the duty of this county to express its wishes to their representatives, that they would support a strict investigation into the various abuses of the public expenditure.

That the abuses attacked by Col. Wardle and Mr. Banks form only a part of a corrupt system long acted upon, and that no permanent good will arise from the late investigation, unless followed up by a general reformation of the public abuses in many departments of the state.

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### MONTGOMERY.

At a Common Hall, held there on the 11th of April, the following resolutions were moved by Dr. Jones, and seconded by Mr. Thomas Jones :—

1. The members of this corporation, feeling the profoundest veneration for those institutions, under which their forefathers have enjoyed liberty and protection, and anxiously wishing to transmit them unimpaired to their posterity, have witnessed with the deepest sorrow and indignation the corruption and profligacy which a late inquiry before the House of Commons has disclosed.

2. That in bringing forward charges against the Commander-in-chief, and producing evidence in support of them; our countryman (Col. Wardle) has displayed firmness, zeal, and industry, worthy the imitation of every Member of Parliament, and the admiration and gratitude of every true Briton.

3. That as a public expression of the sentiments they individually feel towards a man who has so well discharged his trust as a representative of the people, they do move the thanks of this corporation to G. L. Wardle, Esq. hoping that the public approbation he has so honourably obtained will stimulate him to persevere in his endeavours to detect and expose abuses in every department of the state where they are supposed to exist.

4. That the thanks of this corporation be also given to the minority of 125, who divided with Col. Wardle, amongst whom it is peculiarly gra-

tifying to them to find the names of so many gentlemen,\* connected with the principality of Wales, and this country in particular.

To those who are *unacquainted* with the politics of this independent borough, it may be necessary to add, that the above resolutions were *negated* by every one present, except the mover and seconder.

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### CARDIFF.

The "Cardiff Sympathetic Society" have lately celebrated their fiftieth anniversary. After dinner the Vice-President, Dr. Reece, proposed as a toast, "Mr. Wardle, and the independent members who so nobly supported him," which was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm; when the President succeeded that toast, by giving, "May the *effect* ever live in our memory, but the *cause* be buried in oblivion;" which was also received as the former. Several points were afterwards discussed for the benefit of the institution, and the members departed with mutual good-will towards each other.

\* Sir W.W. Wynn, Bart. Sir E. P. Lloyd, Bart. C.W.W. Wynn, Esq. C. H. Tracy, Esq.

## CAERMARTHEN.

A Meeting of the Burgesses and Inhabitants of this place, was held on the 5th of April, when a vote of thanks was passed to Col. Wardle, expressive of the "gratitude which such patriotism merits, and actuated by a national feeling that the object of their address derives his origin from Cambrian blood."

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## WREXHAM.

At the annual vestry, held at this place, on the 3d of April, the inhabitants, with the Vicar, Churchwarden, &c. resolved, that the following spirited resolution and address should be presented to Mr. Wardle:—

SIR, Impressed with the highest admiration of your parliamentary conduct, we take leave to congratulate you on the happy success of your exertions.

To see an independent country gentleman, equally unconnected with those in power, and with those that are considered as immediate candidates for it, standing forth the assertor of the people's rights, and the determined opposer of corruption in whatever shape it may appear, is a phenomenon which has rarely shewn itself in the present system of politics. As such we hail you.

Despising threats—unawed by power—you have proceeded with calmness and dignity in endeavouring to establish your charges, and have at length effected the resignation of the Royal Personage, against whom they were brought.

We feel no small degree of pride, that this most important object has been achieved by our countryman and our neighbour. Go on, then, sir, resolutely and cheerfully in the good work which you have begun! Placemen and Ministers may revile you—the people will applaud and bless you. Ancient Britons are not to be terrified by foreign foes. We have already shewn that we know how to manage them. Our apprehensions for the King we cordially love, and the Constitution we are blessed with, solely arise from the corrupters and the corrupted.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the patriotic minority who voted in favour of Mr. Wardle's resolutions; and particularly to Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart. R. M. Biddulph, Esq. Sir T. Mostyn, Bart. and W. Shipley, Esq. representatives for this and the adjoining county of Flint; also to C. W. W. Wynn, Esq. member for Montgomeryshire.

## INVERNESS.

The Annual Meeting of Heritors and Freeholders, held on the 1st day of May, was most respectably attended. John Peter Grant, Esq. of Rothumwickus, proposed that the thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Wardle, for his firm, disinterested, and public-spirited, conduct in Parliament, which was unanimously adopted.

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## GLASGOW.

The people of Glasgow have sent, through Lord Folkstone, an address of thanks to Mr. Wardle, with upwards of 4000 names at the bottom of it. "This (says Mr. Cobbett) is what I like. That man can never be depended upon, he is not worth a straw, if he is not ready to put his name to the expression of his sentiments. In some cases it is inconvenient; in others nearly impossible; but, where practicable, it is always the best way. This very great inconvenience the people of Glasgow have, I am informed, had forced upon them. Their intention, at first, was to call a public meeting; but this requisition was refused by the Provost. The next step determined on was to advertise in the newspapers; but all their newspapers refused to publish their advertisements. They then posted bills, and distributed printed papers;

and, in six days, these 4000 names were signed. These are the sort of men ; men who see no difficulties too great to be overcome. These 4000 men would, in the defence of their country, be worth ten millions of those balancing, timid, sheep-like creatures, who wait for a bell-wether to lead the way. Scotland, I shall honour thee, as long as I live, for the sake of Glasgow !”

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To the county of Inverness, and the city of Glasgow, might be added Berwick-upon-Tweed, Annan, Kilmarnock, Kircudbright, Kelwinning, Paisley, Fifeshire, Renfrew County, &c. where addresses, resolutions, &c. equally as patriotic as those we have recorded, have been passed and agreed to.

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## ANNIVERSARY OF THE WESTMINSTER ELECTION.

This was celebrated by a dinner at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, on Tuesday, May 23 ; Sir Francis Burdett in the chair. The cloth being removed, Sir Francis proposed “ The King and the Act of Settlement,”—“ The People and the Bill of Rights,”—and “ Magna Charta,” each of which was drank with appropriate demonstrations of respect and regard.

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dress to the company, expatiated to a very great length upon the defective representation of the people of England in Parliament. The great body of the people not having any right of election, it would be as absurd to speak to men shackled in the dungeons of Newgate, about the benefits of free air and exercise, as to talk to the other parts of England about the example of the electors of Westminster. While the bulk of our countrymen did not enjoy that privilege which the electors of Westminster exercised, the example of these electors must be with regard to them quite null and ineffectual. When he was originally applied to to become a candidate for Westminster, he fairly and frankly told them who did him the honour of the application, that which must now be obvious to every sober thinking man in the country, namely, that while the system of the representation continued as it was, it was impossible to do any material good for the people by having a seat in that House—that individual delinquents might be exposed, but that the prolific source of delinquency, and its main support, must continue. At the same time he felt it due to truth, to justice, to acknowledge the services rendered to the public by his honourable friend near him. [This allusion to Mr. Wardle, who sat on the right hand of the honourable Baronet, produced a burst of applause.] Were his honourable



friend not present, he would say more as to his exertion and merit. This much, however, he could not abstain from saying, that, as to his honourable friend belonged all the risk and danger of the undertaking, so to him was due all the honour that attached to it. Denial, therefore, could not longer avail. The charge of loose assertion and idle calumny upon public men could no longer be made—the challenge for accusation in a tangible shape could not again be hazarded. No, the experience of Mr. Wardle's industry and boldness had proved the futility of such charges, and the hardihood of such challenges. But the fact was, that his honourable friend was only granted a hearing at the outset—was only permitted to proceed in his charges because it was calculated, very confidently calculated, that by chicanery, by menaces, and by majorities, he would be borne down. Indeed, he was threatened with disgrace, which ultimately fell where it deserved; but still the calculation to which his success was owing arose out of the idea that he must fail, and that his failure would be so signal as to deter any other man, in future, from bringing a similar charge against any great public delinquent. His honourable friend, however, completely disappointed the calculation of his opponents, and gratified the justice of the people. For neither menaces, nor corruption, nor numbers, could

withdraw him from his purpose, or relax his endeavours. The honourable Baronet concluded a speech to which no abridgment can do justice, by proposing "The Independent Electors of Westminster."

Sir Francis afterwards proposed "The health of Mr. Wardle (who sat on his right hand), and of those Members of the House of Commons, who were unbiassed by party and blinded prejudice." This was drank with three times three, and long and loudly applauded. But as Mr. Wardle's speech on this occasion turned chiefly upon reform, having noticed the same in the narrative of his life prefixed, we shall not repeat it here.

Sir Francis also proposed the health of Mr. Deputy Goodbehere, who trusted that the Corporation of London would now take up the great question of Parliamentary Reform; at a time, he observed, when public men were callous enough to brave the popular current, which had so generally set in against their delinquencies.

In the course of his speech, on this occasion, the Hon. Baronet bestowed a very warm eulogium upon Mr. Clifford, a lawyer, in whom his friends would always find a faithful, courageous, and honest advocate. The late determination of the Lords, in the case of White, and the printer of the Independent Whig, he stated to be iniquitous, cruel, and unconstitutional.

Major Cartwright, in order to illustrate what he meant by a *moderate reform*, proceeded in a most happy manner to tell a very pleasant story, concerning political sheep-stealing, of a Sir John English, who, having been called away to the wars, found, on his return to his hereditary estate, that out of 658 sheep, which he had on his departure, they had all been stolen save 125. (*Loud and continued approbation.*) In making the natural inquiries after his property, he traced a great number of his stolen sheep to be in the unlawful possession of certain noble Lords who lived contiguous; others, and no inconsiderable number, he found browsing on certain Royal parks, a soil with which it was his constant aim and object heretofore to keep them unacquainted. It so happened, that, in both these receptacles of his stolen goods, he found that his sheep had received a new brand. With the Lords they were marked B. P. which was generally known to convey borough-monger and patron; in the royal demesnes it was P. P. which was understood to mean placemen and pensioner (*continued approbation*). The next step of this worthy and determined man was for justice, and he was answered with the effect of what was called moderate justice; in a word, he got 15 or 16 of his sheep back again. But he was not satisfied with what in his opinion was a violation of justice, and he wis

persevered to demand the restoration of the whole of the 658. Contending that the only temperate justice which he ought to evince, was, to get back his sheep without hanging the sheep-stealers (*great applause*).

Major Cartwright also noticed the late County meeting in Cornwall, where Lords Eliot and De Dunstanville were satisfied to vote barren thanks, but would not listen to reformation!

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Want of room prevents us from including accounts of patriotic meetings at some other places; viz. Kendal, Durham, Holbeach, Boston, Pomfret, Oakhampton, Godalming, Radford, &c. But as the resolutions at these places contain nothing remarkably different from those we have already narrated, we pass them over to give a sketch of the concluding part of Mr. Wardle's political life in his recent efforts in Parliament to demonstrate the practicability of making a very great and essential saving in the public expenditure of the national revenue.

With respect to Mr. Wardle's late proposals for saving several millions per annum, it has been, in some degree, triumphantly observed, that though "this has been the second time in which he has placed himself in a situation of such extreme hazard, that even his friends have trembled for his reputation; so has he likewise a second time, not

merely extricated himself with credit, but conferred an infinite obligation on his country, by laying open, all at once, the festering sores within which, the vermin of corruption have fed and fattened till they have drawn her almost to the brink of ruin." From Mr. Wardle's speech on Public Economy, delivered in the House of Commons, on Monday, June 19, 1809, it appears that the Army in every department—its clothing—its agency—its commissariat—the fortifications—the martello towers—the military canals—the military roads—have all been so many sources of jobbing, at the expense of a suffering people, in the most profligate and unfeeling manner.

The Post-Office, too, came under his review. Since Mr. Palmer's removal, it seems the expense of this establishment has been raised from two hundred to four hundred thousand pounds per annum; for which, Mr. Wardle said, he could discover no other reason than "that the management is bad."

In the collection of Customs he also made it apparent, that since there has been less work to do, the number of hands have increased. And while upon the gross aggregate the charge of collecting the whole of the public revenue amounts to little less than four and a half per cent, Mr. Wardle thinks, all idea of patronage being out of the question, this charge might be reduced to three per cent.

the charges that have been brought against them. And having begun to concede, how are they to judge where concession will be able to stop? Their opposers in behalf of reform, in consequence of a moral incapacity, the former can neither silence nor satisfy. The spells of Jacobinism and No Popery will no longer obey their old masters; the increasing good sense of the country is beginning to fix the character of Jacobin upon those whose actions, exposed in this volume to public censure, would most infallibly tend to bring the Sovereign and his Government into contempt. These men, it may be presumed, "are too weak to mend, and too proud to continue."

To all that has been here related, we can confidently add, that Mr. Wardle's patriotic efforts are by no means terminated with the late session of Parliament. His resources and his plans for the public good, so far from being exhausted, will be still more amply displayed in the course of the ensuing session, should his health, which is so valuable to the nation, permit him to co-operate with the increasing number of his friends and admirers, undoubtedly the most firm supporters of the Sovereign, the Government, the Laws, and the Constitution of the Country.

# THOUGHTS

ON

## THE STATE OF GREAT BRITAIN,

AND THE

*Final Issue of the present Critical Juncture.*

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Quid prosunt leges sine moribus.

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IN the present, as well as in every previous, opposition to the measures of ministers, it has been constantly admitted, that success must depend upon the *people themselves*; or, in other words, "that it would be impossible to cure the ills, of which the people complain, without their own consent and *co-operation*."

Now the manner in which the people are called upon by Mr. Wardle and his friends to co-operate is, by the exercise of *public virtue*; but it may not be amiss to define what is to be understood by public virtue, as the ground-work of parliamentary reform.

Every elector is ready to brand the character of any candidate as vicious and corrupt, who will take a bribe, or sell his vote and interest to the minister. Now to be virtuous on their parts, the electors have nothing to do but resolve against

*asking* for any bribes whatever ; and, moreover, they must have the resolution to refuse them when *offered*.

. It may be urged, that very few persons will have sufficient resolution to act against their own *present* interests. It is true, the present interest may sometimes suffer by the refusal of a bribe, or the sale of a vote ; but, if people in general were willing to wave a present advantage, and make this virtuous sacrifice for the good of the country at large, they would be more than repaid in the *future* benefits which such a conduct would produce.

Besides, the interestedness or the disinterestedness of a man's motive is the true test of his virtue and integrity. If any of the actions of his life, particularly those which concern him as a member of society, have not the general good in view, they are vices and marks of depravity, whether they come under the cognizance of the law or not.

If the people were more in the habit than they are, of forming a just estimate of passive or suffering virtue, viz. that virtue which will endure sacrifices and inconveniences, rather than partake of the public guilt, or add to the people's burthens, they would probably appreciate the praise that is due to Mr. Wardle and his friends, and to *ir Francis Burdett* in particular ; who, to stem a tide of corruption, are deaf to the lures of



ambition, and refuse to roll in that profusion which is heaped upon those, who "bask in the sunshine of favour, and fatten upon the people's vitals." They would then form some estimate of the extent of those sacrifices, which these true friends of the country also make, in exposing themselves to the numbers, the influence, and the enmity, of those in power; and to the calumny of their creatures, by whom their characters and their dearest connections are continually exposed to all the ingenuity of malice and slander; and to an ordeal of investigation, which is seldom restrained within the limits of decency or truth! Besides, if the more upright doctrine of the true friends of Reform was to be followed, that is, "for the people to seek the representative, and not for him to seek the electors," bribery on each side would then inevitably be out of the question. But the question now is, will the people in general exert the means already in their hands? This is, perhaps, a matter of *very serious doubt*. Has any moral or material change taken place in the character of the mass of the English nation within the last half century? This has been repeatedly asserted both by politicians and divines. The friends of the present men in power go so far as to say, "that the whole mass is corrupt; but that the top is the purest."

The corruption of the upper classes of society

no one will deny; but it is still to be doubted, whether the great mass of people, as they are pleased to say, are less pure than themselves. This would indeed be alarming. However libertines and experimental politicians may be disposed to smile, we certainly stand upon an eminence rather dangerous, "*When corruption is found glorying in corruption!!!*"

The times are new; the manners are new; and certainly the *morality*, if such it can be called, is *new* also. Therefore the enemies of Reform, borne down by recent and existing enormities, are extremely tender when any thing like a resemblance or recollection of better times is brought upon the tapis.

By a kind of political priestcraft, they seem to prohibit the use of reason or comparison among the people. But Sir Francis Biddell, in particular, having no fear from the result of examination or contrast, insists upon the *purity* of former times, the more strongly to display the *corruption* of the latter. This may, in some degree, answer Mr. Windham's question to the Hon. Baronet, "Why he should be perpetually referring to the purity of *past times*?"—"Why deny that any good can ever be expected, unless some change takes place?"

It is worthy of particular notice, that since the advocates for corruption in the House of Commons have been exposed by the joint efforts of

Mr. Wardle and his friends; and since the former have been driven from one subterfuge to another, till they were compelled to avow and even defend the corruption so detected and exposed, some of the parliamentary orators, not being able to conceal its existence, have endeavoured to remove its origin from the members and the *upper* ranks of society, and to fix it upon the *lower* orders. It was at first denied, then admitted, then shifted. But why this prevarication? Is it to get rid of any idea of a change in the system? The plague-sore, Mr. Windham and others allow, is in the house; but it is not in the drawing-room, nor in the dining-room; it is in the kitchen, and in the scullery. It originated with the servants, and not with the masters; and with them, they say, it must abide. Now, without any unfair reasoning or irrelevant inference, the degeneracy of a nation is more chargeable to its government and to the great, than to the people at large; just as the heads of a family, badly brought up, are always held more censurable than the branches. If greediness of gain, for instance, predominate among the rich and great, are not the poor on their part compelled in a manner to adopt the very same vices, as means of defence to be used for their own self-preservation.

Still, to flatter the people would be equally as criminal as to flatter the higher orders. The

people, at present, are by no means "the sink and hot-bed of vice and corruption;" nor yet the sole proprietors of public virtue: but, until they are known to be in possession of their share of this valuable qualification; that is to say, till the majority of electors are willing to follow the example of those of Westminster and other places, in choosing their representatives without fee or reward, the present men in power will have no occasion for alarm. Those who impute all our misfortunes to the venality of our representatives in parliament, should be asked how it is possible they should possess more virtue than their constituents, who are often more ready to sell their votes, than the former are to purchase them! How many electors constantly decline voting at all, till an offer is made them! Is this the fault of the candidate? Or, is the constitution of the present state of society, such altogether, that no material change can be effected in any part of the system?

Then it is clear that no removal of the men in power would answer any good purpose. The object of a mere change of ministers is accordingly disavowed by Mr. Wardle and his friends.

And it is a fact undeniable, that unless the disinterested endeavours of these gentlemen are supported by the virtue of the people *without*, all their efforts *within* must fall to the ground. The

statesman, who once calculated "that unless the Commons reformed within, the people without would reform with a vengeance," would find his calculation unfit for the present meridian of affairs. Because, if the great mass of the people continue to be actuated by sordid and mere mercenary motives, Heaven knows their vengeance, as it is called, may always be bought off.—Their virtue would indeed be formidable to any vicious part of the community :—their vengeance without it would be contemptible. There is no instance in history of a corrupt body reforming itself. There must in this business be agents and patients. The present efforts of virtuous or speculative patriotism among the representatives and their friends, with respect to the country at large, may be considered under the idea of salutary prescriptions offered to correct the bad juices, and restore the original tone and tension of the relaxed body politic. But if the patient, like some wealthy and bloated individuals, cannot, at least for a while, divest himself of his high living, his pampered and luxurious extravagance, the physician can effect nothing—Death only can release him.

However, to carry the simile a little farther ; if the efforts of Mr. Wardle and the friends of reform should ultimately fail, it cannot justify any impeachment of their judgment. If they prescribe remedies which are not adopted, their cre-

It will still remain, nor will the prejudice be theirs: their advice is rational; its rejection only may be fatal. Perhaps the present state-physicians are able to calculate to a nicety upon the strength and extent of the virus previously imbibed by that body, which the former are endeavouring to cure. If so, they may laugh at the attempts of their opponent: They may ride in the whirlwind, enjoy the storm, and, in fact, brave every thing beneath *The punishment of Divine justice*; for it is practical Atheism alone which indulges the notion, that "God in his providence interferes not with the management of human affairs?" Nevertheless, it is fixed in the immutable order of things, "that extremes shall always inevitably destroy themselves;" the line of mediocrity therefore being once broken, no safety remains but in a return within the proper bounds.

For the political health of the people, they, as well as their friends, should ask for "the Constitution, and the Constitution only."

With respect to the late deliberations and resolutions of the public, the advice of Mr. Montague Burgoyne, one of the members for Essex, may be worth attention: He says, "Do not believe those persons who tell you that it is improper to consider and deliberate. They, who wish to keep you in darkness and ignorance, are afraid of *your* understanding the true situation of *your*

country. I fear we may say, with truth of them, "*They love darkness better than light, because their deeds are evil.*" But as the general practice of sensuality is to envelope itself in the thick folds of security, and while vested with power to disregard every idea of a *visitation*, so nothing but the strong language of inspiration will probably reach those *who call evil good, and good evil*; it may, therefore, not be amiss to remind the haughty sensualists of modern times, of a short parable delivered by the benevolent author of the Christian religion.

See *Matt. xxiv. 45.*

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

"Blessed is that servant whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

"Verily I say unto you, he shall make him ruler over all his house.

"But if that evil servant shall say in his heart, my Lord delayeth his coming;

"And shall begin to smite his fellow-servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

"The Lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

"And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him

his portion with the hypocrites : there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

The propriety of applying this parable to the rulers of kingdoms and empires, which are only *households* on a larger scale, may be seen in the present degraded state of the Continent of Europe, and in the overthrow of so many pre-enslaved and pre-oppressed countries ; the extinction of so many brilliant courts and weak cabinets under the influence of women, favourites, and princely profligates.

It may, also, be seen in too many of their *over-taxed* subjects checking their own sovereigns in the resistance of their declared enemy, as lately in Sweden ; and in deserting them in their greatest extremities : in their sufferance of the realization of such threats as the conqueror made use of against the Prussian nobility, partisans in the late war, viz. "*that he would make those noble courtiers beg their bread.*" And it may be seen in the continuing spread of an all-subjugating torrent, unwisely diverted by a succession of coalitions beyond its ancient and proper limits.

These are indeed lessons and applications that ought to rouse any enervated or sleeping nation, not merely to the exertion of a brute force, but to the exercise of all the moral virtues and energies, in aid of the physical means with which providence has entrusted them. Accordingly the rea-



der will find several allusions to the continent, in the proceedings narrated in the present interesting volume, and which are there considered as examples to Great Britain.

But, certainly, the habits and dispositions of the mass have undergone a considerable change within the last fifteen years, and particularly so since the imposition of the income-tax. From that time, whatever may have been the burdens laid on by the State, the monied and landed interests have sought and found their indemnification among the people at large with a vengeance. The traders and speculators, and, in fact, who are not traders and speculators now? have pushed themselves into all businesses and professions with their mighty overwhelming capitals, and nearly extinguished all fair and honourable competition. Every one, who would oppose this new system, must become a sharper, or a sheep to be devoured by these wolves. Is it then surprising, that, in such a state as this, "every man should be supposed to have his price?"

But have the people done this; or has it been the act of the State? Of the State most assuredly; who have furnished one class of people with facilities merely for its own sake. Why were the statutes against forestalling repealed within the period of Mr. Pitt's administration? However, these statutes, Lord Kenyon observed, a short

time before his death, were repealed "*in an evil hour*;" and he still thought "that something of legal restraint was demanded, as an act of general justice."

That the new system of trade has an infallible tendency to impoverish a number of tradesmen, and place an honest independence quite out of their reach, while but few only can possibly be enriched, take the following example:—Here is a large manufactory of iron, &c. in a poor, but populous, parish in the metropolis: it has evidently ruined all the little masters; because, having a large capital, it can purchase the materials at the best market, and consequently sell them cheaper than they could, when manufactured. The proprietor, it is beyond a doubt, realizes a large fortune. A dozen poor tradesmen are, perhaps, ruined, or they become his journeymen. It is not to be supposed, but that some of these men, for want of good conduct, might have at length become paupers; but, on the other hand, it cannot be denied, that a certain proportion, perhaps half the number, might have enjoyed a handsome competence all their lives; and, if not rich enough to have retired from business altogether, might have passed very well for independent men: whereas, becoming journeymen or servants to the great manufacturer, his system makes one rich man, and at least half a dozen poor.—Yet, this is the

new system pursued all over the island; and, when any cumbrous edifice is seen rising in the shape of a manufactory, a warehouse, a wharf, &c. poor John Bull has lately been taught to fly into raptures, and to hail these appearances as pledges of his prosperity! However, the unprecedented situation of the lower order of tradesmen and mechanics is evident from the decay of the Benefit Clubs, commonly called Friendly Societies. The deficiency of the members in making good their *payments* is alarming, and must either arise from uncommon depravity, or absolute inability; as men, it is supposed, if able, they would certainly act the best for their own interest.

The preamble of the Bill now before Parliament, for the encouragement and relief of friendly societies, proceeds to enact, that a certain number of justices of the peace, on complaint, may enforce the observance of the rules, and levy any arrears (of payment, it is supposed) by *distress* and *sale*. That orders of justices for payment of money shall specify the time and manner of payment. Orders of justices to be made on officers of the society by name, and served on them. And that all such orders shall be final, and not be removeable into any court of law. Whereas, before, it was usual in some cases, when money was

supposed to be due to the club or stewards, to have recourse to the Courts of Request, &c.

Sir Francis Burdett, though, perhaps, many have long thought with him, has been the first to express his disapprobation of the new-fashioned habits of so many of our noblemen descending from the dignity of their birth to become graziers, &c. or, according to modern phrase, "*Agri-culturists*." But, while there are so many new modes of torturing the earth, with the man and the beast that it used to maintain liberally, under the pretext of *improvements*, are not poverty and depopulation insidiously gaining upon us, though the capital swarms?

In many places, where small families used to maintain themselves, are not these dispersed and gone. And, of the altered character and condition of too many, who still remain in the country, does not the following article, which has lately appeared in the public papers, present but too faithful a picture?

"The farmers in the West of England, (says a correspondent,) who are in general very opulent, contrive to get themselves chosen overseers, constables, churchwardens, &c. for their respective parishes; and, wherever this is the case, the poor's rates are very high; for not one married labourer can be found in these parishes who is not a pauper, *his wages being inadequate to support a wife, and*

even one child, although his wife may likewise earn something; so that the cunning, oppressive *Overseer-Farmer* (notwithstanding the great profit he gets by the labour of his husbandmen) contrives to make those persons of his parish, who follow other trades, and those who have no trade at all, but live upon their various incomes, pay, in addition to their other very heavy taxes, a very heavy poor's rate, which is in fact paying a great part of his labourers' wages; and yet the paupered labourers, by the sweat of their brow, enable these farmers, or *Overseer-Farmers*, to drink their wine, keep their hunters and their gigs, although they in return are not honest or humane enough to reward them sufficiently to prevent their becoming a heavy burthen to the other description of parishioners.

And can it possibly be owing to the high price of provisions, that, within a few weeks past, we have heard of repeated disturbances among the Local Militia in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire? Have these men, as it is represented, really been several days in a starving condition in the midst of plenty? The first disturbance at Norwich was quelled by promises, without violence; but a letter from Bury St. Edmunds, of the 23d of June, speaks very indignantly of the German cavalry, being understood to be sent after these militia men at Ely in Cambridgeshire.

These Germans are a body of troops, of which our Constitution has no knowledge. These accounts, it seems, have been exaggerated; otherwise it might have been said, "corruption had already begun to destroy itself."

If there has been such an increase of paupers, as has just been intimated, then the increase of prisoners or persons confined for debt all over the kingdom cannot be questioned. This, in fact, rests upon the authority of the legislature itself: In the late Act for the relief of certain Insolvent Debtors, the preamble itself expresses "*the crowded state of the prisons and gaols in England and Wales.*" And a late newspaper estimate of bankruptcies states the number of bankrupts in the year 1808, from January 1st to December 31st inclusive, at *eleven hundred and two!*

Corruption and abuses, not confined to the country or the court, have at length been avowed, though not defended, in the city. In a Court of Common Council of the City of London, holden on Wednesday, June 21, 1809, several resolutions were founded, and passed on the Report of the Finance Committee, upon Alderman Domville's motion, "*That the abuses, that had crept into every branch of the City expenditure, called for the interference of that Court.*"

But, further, the spirit of speculation in this great metropolis, which is only another word for

taking all advantages, is active and sanguine beyond all precedent, being no longer under any apprehension of receiving any check either from the precepts or the examples of those who partake of the common spoil. The numerous taxes lawfully levied for the support of the King and his government are favours, compared with the unconscionable extortion of those who deal in articles of prime necessity; and others, who continue to levy their thousands with the greatest ease, by buying street after street, and purchasing the houses over the heads of those tenants who had not the good fortune a few years since to secure good long leases. Hence but too many families, in the middling classes, that used to occupy houses to themselves, have been pushed up from the first and second floors to the garrets; or precipitated from thence into the cellars. And this by no means for the *public benefit*, but merely for the gratification of *private vices*.

By a refinement in villany, we have speculating depredators, who not only purchase great numbers of houses belonging to tradesmen; but, knowing their dependence on the situations they occupy, frequently extort a premium or good-will to permit them to stay, and this in addition to an increased rent.

The plentiful harvest thus obtained by rack-renting in the metropolis, is the reason why the

*new* buildings are still continued; and that there has lately been such a general repairing and *vamping* up of *old* houses, warehouses, &c. in all quarters. The superficial observer, who sees these speculative edifices, like "airy visions," rising all around him, perhaps does not perceive how often the inhabitants of some of the splendid new streets, even in the heart of the city, are compelled to shift from these to humbler dwellings. But fatally taken by external seeming, like the taudry trappings of a decayed courtesan, a silly credulity is still inclined to exclaim with a poet, who seldom dealt in fiction:

"Where has commerce such a mart,  
 "So rich, so throng'd, so drain'd, and so supply'd,  
 "As London? opulent, enlarg'd, and still  
 "Increasing London—Babylon of old,  
 "Not more the glory of the earth than she."

COWPER.

Beyond all doubt the character of the middling and lower classes *must* change with a change of customs. May it not be said, that the pressure of taxes, and the weight of monopoly upon almost every article of consumption, have rather altered the once free open temper and the blunt manners of John Bull? William the Conqueror, by introducing the curfew, could only compel the people to eat their supper in the dark, *or go to bed by day-light*. William Pitt's war-



taxes and his monopolists have abridged them both of food and light. William Pitt did not compel people to extinguish their fires at eight at night; but his window-tax darkened their houses by night and by day; and his measures generally led to the total prohibition of social intercourse, which was also the object of William the Norman. William the Conqueror changed the English customs; William Pitt succeeded but too well in changing the English character. Under Wm. Pitt's system, the small farms and farmers, as well as vast numbers of little tradesmen, have been nearly annihilated.

William the Conqueror overrun the country with mercenaries; William Pitt has oppressed it with jobbers and speculators, who call themselves *merchants*, created out of a new system of trade and commerce; and he has impoverished the country by extending the monied interests, and narrowing that of useful agriculture. William the Conqueror, notwithstanding, left the monasteries and great houses in a capacity to bestow their customary alms of bread and beef; but, under William Pitt's trading system, the great houses and landholders in general sell their cattle, and carefully calculate the value of every beast from the horns to the hoof, and from the head to the tail! while too many, who are not graziers, instead of imitating any part of the hospitality of

their ancestors, convert even the produce of the dripping-pan to their own emolument. This new system has multiplied paupers, and changed a number of the characters of those, the sons of many respectable farmers, who have been compelled to become labourers upon the very same farms, which were held upon leases by their fathers and grandfathers.

Some persons look so high that they can see nothing beneath them: but it is a curious fact, that, till the French Protestants came into this country, in the reign of William and Mary, the offal, viz. the heads, feet, and intestines, of cattle, were not eaten by the people of London, who then, most probably, fed their domestic animals with what they now eat themselves! It was the poor French Protestant refugees, many hundreds of whom took up their residence in Spital Fields, who first became customers to the London butchers for this sort of food, not for their dogs, but for their own tables. Still it was long, indeed, before this humiliating example was followed by Englishmen; which, however, has become *general* within the last twenty years. So that, till Mr. Pitt's administration was established, when horse-flesh was substituted in this city for dog's meat, it might have been said, that the *English dogs* lived better than their *christian* neighbours.

*It is only since this period that the selling of*

horse-flesh for this purpose has been erected into a *new* and *extensive* trade; horse-flesh fetching a price *now* equal to that of beef a *few years ago*!

In answer to statements like these, the advocates for corruption are always ready to urge, that the situation of the people in this country is, beyond all description, superior to the people of France! But why should an *Englishman* be told he is better fed than a *Frenchman*? Could this objection be invalidated, it might then be urged, that he is certainly superior to a Spaniard, an Italian, a Hottentot, &c. But why should the *Englishman*, at this time, be any thing less than what he *has been* under the best constitution in the world?

“For forms of government let fools contest,  
“Whate’er is best administer’d, is best.”

But every censure upon the abuse of commerce will, by shallow thinkers, be converted into an enmity against all commerce whatever! Still how is it, that something like the balance of property within a state should not be as necessary as the balance of power without it? Commerce too, which, like a great river, would be of excellent use while kept within bounds, must occasion dreadful ravages in overflowing its proper limits.

A commercial war, nearest in its affinities to a civil war, may become the most cruel and implacable of any; while a more laudable, or even a

chivalrous, principle of honour would disdain a contest for such objects. The point of honour, generally speaking, knows when to be satisfied. But it may be asked, whether a contest of insatiable avarice can terminate without the destruction either of the Montagues or the Capulets?

Mr. Pitt being the father of the present commercial system and its consequences, this may probably be numbered among the nation's misfortunes.

Mr. Pitt, it should be remembered, came into power in 1783, in consequence of his opposition to Mr. Fox's East India Bill, which, founded upon the principles of Mr. Pitt's noble father, struck at the root of oriental peculation and corruption. But, in 1784, when Mr. Pitt brought in his India Bill, in opposition to that of Mr. Fox, subjecting the Company to a Board of Control, appointed by the Crown, was not the juggler thus intruded upon the country in the room of the enlightened statesman? Have not subsequent events, and that Company's affairs in general, proved this to a demonstration? Did not Mr. Fox's India Bill wisely propose taking the entire management of the territorial and commercial concerns of India into the hands of government? Then, as Mr. Montagu Burgoyne has observed in *his* late letter to the freeholders and inhabitants of *Essex* :—

“ Had the advice and the prophetic admonitions of Mr. Pitt’s great rival been attended to, what millions of human lives might have been saved! what miseries prevented! what lamentations for the past, what apprehensions for the future, avoided!”

Of the blood-shed and famine excited by this Company abroad, it is no place to speak here.

“ However, the amazing increase of territory, as well as commercial property, in the East Indies, have introduced into this country a species of people (Nabobs), who have become rich without industry; and, by diminishing the value of gold and silver, have created a new system of finances. This has occasioned a spirit of luxury and speculation attended with the most fatal effects, and an emulation among *merchants and traders to equal or surpass the nobility.*”

The son of the great Earl of Chatham, therefore, commenced the grand career of his power as *protector* and patron of that body of traders whom his noble *father* had most indignantly *denounced!* His opinion of such bodies is the best apology for the censure of those who have lived to witness the baleful effects of their influence at home and abroad.

“ There is,” said the Earl of Chatham, in his speech in the House of Lords, on the 22d of November, 1770, “ a set of men in the city of Lon-

don, who are known to live in riot and luxury upon the plunder of the ignorant, the innocent, and the helpless; upon that part of the community that stands most in need of, and that best deserves, the care and protection of the legislature. To me, my lords, whether they be miserable jobbers of 'Change Alley, or the lofty *Asiatic plunderers of Leadenhall Street*, they are all equally detestable. I care but little whether a man walks on foot, or is drawn by eight horses, or six; if his luxury be supported by the *plunder of his country*, I despise and detest him. The little that I know of the Treasury has not served to raise my opinion of the "monied interest." I mean that *blood-sucker*, that *muck-worm*, which calls itself "the friend of government." Under this description I include the whole race of commissaries, jobbers, contractors, clothiers, and remitters. Yet I don't deny that, even with these creatures, some management may be necessary; and I hope, my lords, that nothing I have said will be understood to extend to the honest industrious tradesman, who holds the *middle rank*, and has given repeated proofs that he prefers LAW and *liberty* to *gold*. Much less would I be thought to reflect upon the *fair merchant*, whose liberal commerce is the prime source of national wealth. I esteem his occupation, and respect his character."

Thus the abuse of the mercantile character, instead of giving birth to heroes and patriots, produces *mercenaries* only. The advocates for "a moderate reform" cannot admit of the idea of a *moderate commerce*. But it is from the preponderance of this dangerous extreme that the trading spirit, so long and so fatally indulged, has at length so far succeeded, as nearly to obliterate all decent pride of birth, and the superiority derived from honourable or illustrious ancestors, or their achievements! In fact, so general have been the pursuits, and so extensive the connections, of a sordid and commercial avarice, that the character of the old English gentleman, living upon his patrimony alone, is almost extinct. Analyze the inhabitants of the magnificent streets and squares in the metropolis, and see how few of these mansions are occupied by that honourable character, and how many by merchants, traders, dealers, chapmen, agents, brokers, jobbers, contractors, and commissioners, of every description!

On the other hand, that an increased number of persons in the metropolis, and other great towns, have experienced a great augmentation of the comforts and conveniences of life, cannot be denied. Neither can it be positively asserted that the aggregate of prosperity in this country has not been increased beyond all precedent. But it is the *du-*

*rability* only of the system that is seriously called in question. If the state of *eternal war* can be supported, the present system has no occasion for any change. The war with good members also carries off the refuse of society, and checks the exuberance of population. It keeps up our commerce, by totally excluding that of other nations. The most burthened part of the community are still patient in the hopes of a change some time or another. Taxes are paid, and even the income-tax is tolerated; because, in fact, though laid upon persons of property, these, as landholders, and trading companies, transfer the burthen from their own shoulders, to those of the *consumer* with impunity, of course are considerable gainers in the bargain.

Hence monopoly creates money-lenders, and money-lenders support ministers. However, though these seem to reckon upon a perpetuity of being, there is a *ne plus ultra* beyond which neither of them can proceed. And this appears in the general direliction of the principles of honour and justice; for, in a moral point of view, and religion out of the question, had Englishmen been told a few years since that the language of the common gaols would soon be adopted by senators, their sense of decency, and their regard for the dignity of the species, would have rendered the assertion incredible. It has hitherto been the cant of felons only to say, "Here we are all



*thieves alike.*" But to maintain that "all men are corrupt from the bottom to the top," is one of those base and sordid sentiments, which, if delivered in a palace, is only worthy of a prison.

In reality, such an endeavour to break down the salutary distinctions between good and bad, between vice and virtue, is a kind of religious Jacobinism; or, to use a more tangible image, it resembles a banditti or a set of ruffians, who, being upon the eve of detection, rush in upon the surrounding crowd, and confound themselves with the multitude, the more easily to elude their pursuers.

Mr. Wardle and some of his friends having, in the course of speaking, adopted the scriptural phrase of "*laying the axe to the root*," have wonderfully exposed themselves to the ridicule of some persons, whose open professions, as the advocates of corruption, while they sneer at an allusion to *sacred writ* only, render the resemblance between themselves and the persons therein described, so much the stronger; for instance, the prophet Isaiah, in his first chapter, has portrayed the total degeneracy and *corruption* of the Jewish state, or body politic, in these words:—

"The whole head is sick, the heart is faint. For, from the sole of the foot even to the crown of the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrifying sores."

What a striking coincidence between the two! The British anti-reformers, who affect a contempt of sacred writ, viz. the phrase of "an axe laid to the root," openly assert, "*That the whole nation of Great Britain is corrupt from bottom to top, but that the top is the purest!*" Now the only difference between these politicians and the prophet is, that while he laments the degeneracy he condemns, his ignorant and awkward imitators glory in their shame.

To pursue Isaiah's description of a corrupt nation and government would be still more unfortunate for those of Great-Britain "*at the top,*" who, to screen themselves, endeavour to throw most of the odium upon the people whom they call "*the bottom.*" Because the prophet, passing by the "*sole of the foot,*" dwells expressly upon the head; the optimates and the rulers! "*Thy princes,*" said he, "*are rebellious, and companions of thieves; every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards.*"

This is sufficient to shew, that those who have not justice on their side, should be extremely careful how they meddle with the weapons of truth.

In fine, Mr. Wardle and the friends of Reform contend, that the constitution and the country are in danger; while their opponents assert, with equal pertinacity and assurance, that the constitution is still sound and unimpaired, even by crowd

*corruption*; and that the country, upon the whole, is in a most prosperous and happy state.

But however boastful and fallacious the professions of ministers may be, as Sir Francis Burdett has admitted in the laudable speech which he made just before the close of the session, when he submitted to the House his plan for a reform in Parliament, "as a nation, we have no real ground for despondency." The Hon. Baronet is not one who has given the country up for lost. Who then will have the hardihood to assert, that the fate of Great Britain is inseparably connected with that of the continent? But, can the enemy be more successfully combatted than with *public virtue*? The virtue and exertions of the many, must come in aid of the known patriotic few—public virtue procured American independence; and Helvetic liberty, before it was enervated by the riches and exclusive privileges usurped by the oligarchs of Switzerland, was constantly an overmatch for the powerful Emperors of Germany, the Dukes of Burgundy, and others. Not so in the late struggle with France, when the brave Swiss peasantry certainly felt they possessed nothing worth a sanguinary contention.

But if it is sufficient for a nation to be free to will it, what shall prevent it from rising up as one man in its defence? Yet, as to conditions on the part of the people of England, they are out of the question; the great majority are advocates for the

present war, and of course will nobly stand or fall with it. Money has hitherto been accounted the *sinews of war*: but perhaps it has been justly observed,

“Ce n'est pas l'argent qui peut être appelé le véritable *nerf*, d'une guerre telle que celle ci, et ce ne sera pas *lui* qui en déterminera le résultat final.”

In the meanwhile, a reform at home is a distinct subject; and, as a probability of its success, we have yet the consolation of knowing that all our Nobles have not compromised the high birth of their ancestors. Our Howards, Percys, Stanhopes, and many more, stand quite unconnected with the trickery and littleness of trade and traffic. Many of our commoners have preserved themselves from corruption, and the meanness of the mercantile spirit. Our Constitution is esteemed more than ever. The King is always beloved; and the heir-apparent will, no doubt, preserve the fountain of honour unsullied. The country gentlemen have only to foster the recent revival of patriotism, which we have endeavoured to record in the preceding pages; and the example of the friends of reform have been highly cheering in their commencement! May the issue be equally happy to the country!

THE END.













